

Treasurer candidates go on record
Leal, Ventresca, and Bermúdez discuss
their reasons for wanting the job.

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Paris is burning
Gay bodybuilder Bob
Paris talks to the B.A.R.

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Straight to hell
'Latin Boys Go to Hell'
comes to the Castro.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Ellen DeGeneres

Emmy loves Ellen loving women

United Press International

Ellen DeGeneres, whose ABC-TV series caused controversy last season when her character acknowledged that she is a lesbian, says the writing Emmy awarded to *Ellen* shows the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences wants "diversity on television."

The show was up for several awards, including one for DeGeneres for lead actress in a comedy series.

The only major Emmy awarded to *Ellen* was for writing for a comedy series. The winning episode was the "Puppy" installment, in which the character Ellen Morgan came out as a lesbian.

"I think it's a huge nod that the Academy gave us this award," DeGeneres said at a backstage meeting with reporters. "I think it shows that they want some diversity on television."

She also said the writing on that episode deserved an Emmy, and if it hadn't won, "it would have felt like they still weren't ready to accept what the subject matter is."

DeGeneres says the shows already filmed for the fall season are "hilarious," and she promises the issue of her character's sexual orientation will be explored further this season.

"I think it will be a show that people will talk about, to say the least," said DeGeneres.

In her speech accepting the Emmy, DeGeneres said she was accepting the trophy "on behalf of all the people, especially the teenagers, who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay." She urged them not to let others make them feel ashamed. ▼

Shalala plan compromises medical records, say experts

by Dennis Conkin

A controversial Clinton administration proposal that would allow federal and state law enforcement officials and others access to medical records without patient consent is under fire by gay and lesbian medical experts and civil rights activists.

The September 11 proposal by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala would mean that patients cannot control who has access to information about their HIV status—or sexual orientation, according to Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Director of Public Policy Marj Plumb.

The medical records information could be used to charge lesbians and gays with sodomy, lead to HIV-related discrimination, and affect child visitation and custody rights, policy experts say.

Under current guidelines, healthcare providers are routinely required to report to law enforcement officials patients' criminal behavior such as child abuse, and emergency

room injuries associated with arson, gunshots, and other conditions without patient consent. Sexual and other communicable diseases are also reportable to state health departments.

GLMA Executive Director Ben Schatz, who sits on the President's Commission on AIDS, called the Shalala proposal "far-reaching."

"I fear that under the proposal, doctors may have to warn their patients that they have the right to remain silent and that anything they say may be used against them in a court of law," Schatz told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Expanding to limit?

Ironically, Shalala's proposed legislation is an effort to limit the use of health information from patient medical records to purposes directly connected with healthcare and payment—but the measure specifically exempts law enforcement officials from the proposed privacy provisions.

"It is an instance of balancing private in-

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Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala

City to Catholic Charities: get queers or lose \$2M contract

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Health Commission's budget committee minced no words during a hearing with Catholic Charities executives Tuesday, September 16: Diversify your board of directors to meet the commission's policy that boards of contracting agencies reflect the people being served, or lose a \$2 million DPH contract. Catholic Charities has until November 18 to bring its board of directors into compliance—specifically, having openly gay and HIV-positive representation on the 35-seat body.

Lee Ann Monfredini said at the outset that "I'm going to be a bit rough." She was. Three other members, including openly gay, HIV-positive Commissioner Ron Hill, echoed her comments. Ironically, all of them prefaced their comments by acknowledging that they are Catholic.

"We can't in any good conscience extend this contract. This board [Catholic Charities] has been out of compliance, and your recent letter to us is just not effective," said Monfredini, who chairs the budget committee. "I want you to really look into this. I don't want to say this is your last warning, but it's very close to that."

A September 5 letter to Wayne Clark in the Department of Public Health's (DPH) mental health services department from Frank C. Hudson, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, stated the agency believed it is in compliance with Health Commission Policy #24. There is also a separate, but similar DPH Policy #24. Hudson is on the agency's board of directors.

"Catholic Charities has made concerted effort for improvement in the area of board diversity over the last several years. In our

ongoing effort to promote diversity among our board members, Catholic Charities always leaves at least two board seats vacant to allow for appropriate additions to the cadre as they arise," Hudson's letter stated. His correspondence did not mention sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS representation.

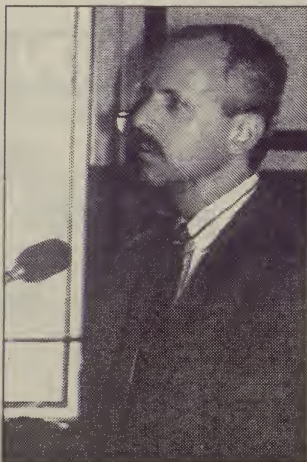
According to a March 31 DPH report of Catholic Charities board demographics, of the 35 members, 25, or 71 percent, are white, with the remaining 10 members, or 29 percent, people of color. The section for counting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual members had no numbers listed. In terms of

ethnic makeup, the board is comprised of one African-American, three Native Americans, two Asian/Pacific Islanders, three Latinos, and one "other." There are 13 men and 22 women; no number is listed in the transgender column.

The particular contract discussed Tuesday involves \$160,720 per year for four years to provide various mental health services at Catholic Charities' Peter Claver House, a residential program for HIV/AIDS clients. But as Jo Ruffin, director of mental health services, told the commissioners, the contract is just one of many DPH contracts Catholic Charities receives, totaling around \$2 million.

Hudson was out of town Tuesday, so

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Catholic Charities Chief Operations Officer David Lloyd

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Auto aficionados



Car-lovers and men-lovers Thomas Hill and Jeffrey Gardner enjoy the sights and each other at the 14th annual Freewheelers Benefit Car Show. Muscle cars — those gas hogs from the late '60s — were featured among the 100-plus vehicles that filled Collingwood Park Sept. 14. Funds raised were presented to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (pushing them over \$1 million in their \$3-1/2 million fund drive) and Project Open Hand.

Leatherwalk kicks off Leather Pride Sunday

by Shan Schwartz

The famous Folsom Street Fair is the finale to Leather Pride Week next week, but the festivities kick off this Sunday, September 21, with a fundraiser leather parade from the Castro to South-of-Market.

"Leatherwalk '97" is expected to draw hundreds of marchers and raise thousands of dollars for the AIDS Emergency Fund, said Art Tomaszewski, the event's founder.

Beginning at 2 p.m. at Daddy's Bar, located at 440 Castro Street, Leatherwalkers will proceed down Market Street to 10th Street; down 10th to Folsom for a stop at the Powerhouse Bar, 1347 Folsom Street; and then again down 10th to Harrison Street and south to the S.F. Eagle, at 12th and Harrison.

The parade will arrive at the Eagle just in time for its Sunday afternoon beer/soda bust, which is also a fundraiser for AEF. The men who will appear on the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar (yet another fundraising effort for the AEF) will be auctioned off as dinner dates.

Although the AEF is the prime benefactor for pledges earned during the walk, Tomaszewski said the Leatherwalk had other purposes as well.

"It's allowing the greater community to see that the leather community is alive, is thriving, and is an important part of the general community," he said. "And we're there to have a good time!"

Besides the parade of leather-clad walkers, entertainment will be provided throughout the march by cabaret singer David Kelsey, who will sing and play keyboards from the back of a pickup truck.

Leatherwalk began in 1992, when Tomaszewski was holding the title of Mr. Headquarters Leather '92. The event has become an annual fundraiser for AEF, earning nearly \$60,000 in the past five years. It has also come to be recognized as the official kickoff for Leather Pride Week. Tomaszewski said, which culminates with the Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, Sept. 28.

The 1992 march featured about 35 walkers, but in more recent years the number of marchers has climbed to about 175. Tomaszewski is hoping for close to 200 marchers this year. Both individuals and organizations are invited to participate.

Those who receive pledges or make a donation to march will receive commemorative pins, provided by the Powerhouse Bar, Tomaszewski said. Pledge sheets are available at Daddy's Bar, but Tomaszewski said that anyone who shows up with pledges or a \$5 donation is welcome to march. ▼

Registration for Leatherwalk '97 begins Sunday at 1 p.m. at Daddy's. For more information or for Leatherwalk pledge sheets, call Tomaszewski at (415) 863-2758.

Horizons to honor Coles and Kent Tuesday

by Dennis Conkin

Horizons Foundations will hold its Third Annual Community Builder Awards reception this Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, located at Two New Montgomery Street.

Recipients of the 1997 awards are lesbian activist and nonprofit consultant Debra Kent, and gay activist and civil rights attorney Matt Coles.

Kent, who operates Catalyst Consulting, has served on the boards of directors of a variety of lesbian and gay community groups, including the Academy of Friends and the Human Rights Campaign Steering Committee, and also directed the capital campaign for the Castro's Coming Home Hospice.

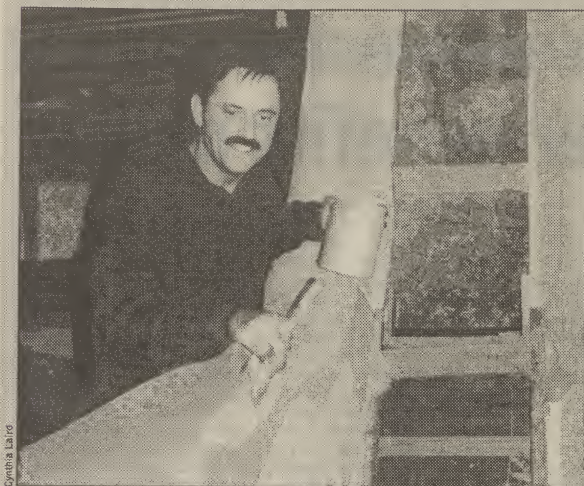
Coles is the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, and the author of San Francisco's Domestic Partners Ordinance and the city's landmark Human Rights Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

More than \$100,000 in 1997 grants for a diverse collection of lesbian and gay community groups and serving agencies will also be announced at the reception.

Founded in 1980, Horizons is the nation's oldest and largest lesbian and gay community foundation, and has awarded more than 400 grants totaling \$846,000 since its inception. ▼

Tickets for the Sheraton Palace reception start at \$50. For more information, call Horizons Foundation at 398-2333.

If the shoe fits...



Laurence Sausa, of Sausa Production Company Inc. in Oakland, puts the finishing touches on a giant pump that's part of an elaborate set at the East Bay's first pride festival this Saturday. The openly gay Sausa has designed sets and decor for huge events around the country. Saturday's "Gay Mardi Gras," sponsored in part by Sausa's firm, will go from noon to 6 p.m. at Preservation Park, near the 12th Street BART Station. Admission is \$7 at the gate.

Cynthia Laing

Queer calls gay man 'faggot' in park attack

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man was found guilty Tuesday, September 16 of misdemeanor anti-gay hate crime and terrorist threat charges, stemming from an attack on another gay man in Lafayette Park last month.

James Hall was arrested August 9 after police were called to the scene by a woman who had been walking her dog at the Pacific Heights park.

Scott Sprout, the victim in the incident, testified during the trial he was afraid for his life after Hall claimed he had a knife, made viciously anti-gay comments, and then threatened and pursued him out of the park.

Sprout attempted to pepper-spray Hall during the early evening incident.

According to Assistant District Attorney Thanh Ngo's opening statement to the jury, Hall had yelled, "I want you out of the park, you fucking faggots. I hate all you fucking faggots. You're all a bunch of child molesters. I have a knife, and I'm going to cut you up."

Hall, who could not make bail in the case and has been in jail since his arrest, denied saying he had a weapon and would use it—but said that he could not explain his anti-gay comments during the incident.

Sprout and other witnesses in the case told the jury that Hall appeared to be "enraged" and was "flailing his arms" at various points during the incident.

After Hall began harassing Sprout, the victim left the area and walked to a nearby street, where he encountered two men and asked if he might walk with them, as Hall was continuing to pursue him.

According to testimony, Hall kept up his anti-gay barrage and threats of violence as he approached the trio.

Although Hall made no physical contact with Sprout, he threatened to kill him, according to the testimony of Steve Marino, one of the pair the victim asked to walk with.

Marino was on his way to din-

ner on nearby Fillmore Street with a friend when Sprout approached him.

"He asked if he could walk with us and before he finished, I understood why. [Hall] was saying, 'I'm going to kill you, faggot. You've been having sex in the park, faggot,'" Marino testified.

Then Hall included the two men in his threat and yelled that he "would kill you all," Marino said.

Sprout pulled out a can of pepper-spray and sprayed at Hall as he continued to approach the men with threats.

'Fuck this and fuck that'

According to witness Nita Ybarra, who had taken her dog for a walk in the park when the 7 p.m. incident took place, Hall was circling around and yelling the worst anti-gay comments she'd ever heard.

"All the fucking faggots are fucking little boys in the park," Ybarra said Hall had shouted.

"Thank God, there were no children around," Ybarra said. "He went on and on about faggots, about how all faggots had AIDS, it was fuck this and fuck that."

Sprout testified that he was afraid for his life and that Hall did not appear to be intoxicated during the incident.

During his testimony, Sprout said that the use of the word "faggot" was hate speech, and not used by gay men.

Sprout's testimony about the use of the epithet was countered by David Webb, owner of the popular Giraffe Bar, who testified that gay men often used the word with each other. Webb also testified that Hall had been drinking heavily in the Polk Street gay bar the afternoon of the incident, and had been asked to leave because of his inebriated state.

Openly gay Assistant District Attorney Chuck Haines, who made the decision to charge Hall in the case, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Sprout did not know Hall was gay—and that his sexual orientation was actually irrelevant to the charge.

The hate crimes statute criminalizes such attacks and threats made on the basis of the victim's

real or perceived sexual orientation, he said.

Haines also said that Hall didn't just use the epithet, but threatened Sprout with a weapon, which meets the "fear of harm or great bodily injury" requirements of the statute. ▼

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SF school board adopts domestic partner benefits policy

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Board of Education unanimously adopted a resolution to expand its nondiscrimination employment policy, and added a policy not to discriminate in its provision of benefits between employees who have domestic partners and employees who have spouses, at its meeting Tuesday, September 9. The action, spearheaded by board member Dr. Juanita Owens, also includes gender identity, HIV/AIDS status, and domestic partner status.

"I think it's very significant," Owens told the B.A.R. "In terms of gender identity, that wasn't there [before], and we had two transgender people speak on it at the meeting."

At last week's meeting, board member Carmen del Portillo asked to be added as a sponsor of the resolution; the other board members quickly followed suit before the 7-0 vote.

The historic change in the San

Francisco Unified School District's employment policy will mandate that district staff develop procedures and regulations for implementing the new policy as soon as is reasonably possible; no date was available at B.A.R. press time. Transgender persons and people living with HIV/AIDS will also be protected from discrimination.

The district's new policy follows the city's implementation this past summer of the landmark nondiscrimination ordinance requiring businesses that contract with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employees' spouses.

Owens told the B.A.R. that prior to last week's action, the school district did have an informal, unwritten policy that allowed employees who have domestic partners to take advantage of benefits by asking for them; a district spokesman told the board that 65 employees used the informal process.

"I'm very happy. Again, it's another goal. We are passing another

threshold in the way to full equal civil rights for San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens," Owens said.

Dean Goodwin, Mayor Willie Brown's liaison to the queer community, spoke in favor of the policy at the meeting. He noted the city's historic lead in domestic partner benefits laws has taken place as a series of steps over the last ten years. "At each step, other cities and other corporate entities have watched and eventually followed our lead. With each courageous change to our administrative code, we have challenged traditional limitations of civil and employment discrimination protection, and we have been watched, evaluated and emulated," Goodwin said.

Coincidentally, earlier in the day on September 9, the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission unanimously adopted a resolution requiring entities that it contracts with to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if benefits are offered to spouses. ▼

City says FedEx absolutely, positively has to offer domestic partner benefits

by Dennis Conkin

A locally-run mail delivery carrier that provides workers domestic partner benefits has replaced Federal Express as the city's overnight mail service carrier, amidst open speculation that the mail carrier may move its San Francisco International Airport cargo operations to Oakland.

Internal FedEx documents reportedly indicate the overnight mail carrier is considering the move from SFO to the Oakland Airport to avoid complying with the city's domestic partners requirements.

The gigantic company is a party to the federal lawsuit by the 22-airline Airport Transport Association, challenging a law enacted last June that requires contrac-

tors to provide health and other benefits to domestic partners of city workers if such benefits are provided to married workers.

The company is currently in lease negotiations for a new facility at the airport, which will increase the company's annual rent from \$1.1 million to \$3 million.

FedEx has refused to publicly confirm or deny whether discussions are underway with the Oakland Airport about such a move, but city officials will not budge from the domestic partners requirement, according to PJ Johnston, a spokesman for Mayor Willie Brown.

"Absolutely not," Johnston told the B.A.R. "Mayor Brown believes that the ordinance is strong, healthy for our city, and good for business. It's the right thing to do, and he's going to back it up."

Supervisor Tom Ammiano reiterated his support of the ordinance and blasted coverage of the issue in the media, particularly in the *San Francisco Examiner*.

"The ordinance is being trivialized and nit-picked in the mainstream media, and now the *Examiner* is calling on us to accommodate Federal Express. It's a circle jerk that's trying to defeat non-discrimination, and I will never support that," Ammiano said.

Express Services Overnight, the carrier that replaced FedEx, was located by Supervisor Leslie Katz, who said the firm "was locally owned and had provided domestic partners benefits long before the ordinance was passed."

Katz also said the firm's rates were often 10-20 percent less than those charged by FedEx for the overnight mail delivery service. ▼

Marin seeks names for MLK Awards

by Ron Lazar

The nomination deadline for the prestigious 17th annual Marin County Human Rights Commission's Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award is nearly at hand, with no more nominations accepted after Tuesday, September 30. For now, however, the commission is eager to receive recommendations from the public.

Specifically, the commission is looking for people who work and live in Marin County, are involved diligently in an unpaid capacity to serve their Marin communities, advocate for human rights by example and/or involvement, and show perseverance and commitment in the achievement of human rights

and dignity for individuals and/or groups not always afforded these rights.

Anyone who knows someone with those qualities should write to the commission and explain why they believe the nominee should be selected and why they are exceptional. The nomination should include information about how the nominee has positively affected others, and obstacles and/or risk-taking involved in the nominee's achievement, and the lasting or long-term effects resulting from their efforts.

If the nominee is a professional working in the human rights field, the person making the nomination has made a contribution in an exceptional way, beyond the course of normal work.

Staff Coordinator Patricia Maguire told the B.A.R., "We like

to have additional examples of how the nominee advocates for people in the county, outside of their job requirements - people who go above and beyond."

The Marin County Human Rights Commission will decide the candidates in October, and the awards will be presented Wednesday, January 18, 1998 at the Windham Garden Hotel in San Rafael. A non-profit agency, identified by each recipient, will receive a \$1,000 stipend provided by the Marin Community Foundation in the recipient's name. ▼

Submit nominations to Patricia Maguire of the Marin County Human Rights Commission at the Marin County Civic Center, Room 403, San Rafael, CA 94903, or call (415) 499-6189.

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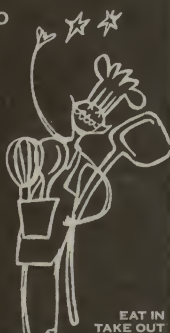
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EAT IN
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Vandals lash out at same-sex kissing Latino icons

Artist to attend community forum Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

Part of Galeria de la Raza's outside wall is covered by black plywood, with a quote from the Dalai Lama painted on it in white: "Anyone who puts all their energy into destroying anger will be happy in this life and in lives to come." Flowers in glass vases have been attached to the plywood and form a frame around the quote.

The boarded-up area was a window until last week, when it was apparently smashed by vandals - for the second time in as many weeks. It would seem someone had a problem with what was displayed in the window, an image of popular Latino heroes Che Guevara and Cesar Chavez.

Because of the recurring anti-gay vandalism, Galeria staff have announced that they'll hold a community meeting this Sunday, September 21.

The damaged art, along with the rest of the exhibit "My Cathedral," by Los Angeles artist Alex Donis, opened at the Galeria August 19 and continues through September 27.

The installation uses video, sound, and light to transform the storefront gallery into a storefront church, staff explained. Inside, Donis's fictionalized pairings of same-sex historical personalities kissing each other examines the traditions of devotion, as the artist looks at issues such as gender identity, queer sexuality, cultural fantasy, and the nature of religious structures.

Donis flew to San Francisco after the incidents and put the vases around the boarded-up windows. He also posted statements about what had happened. This Sunday, he'll be in town again and will be at the forum, which is open to the public.

Responding to the acts of violence, Donis said, "In our community, which is part of a democratic society, we must all realize that freedom of expression is not a privilege but a right, and that all artistic expression must be respected and allowed a voice."

'Tolerance, love, and acceptance'

Vandals apparently threw rocks at the window displaying Guevara and Chavez sometime over Labor Day weekend; the second incident occurred the weekend of September 6-7, said Dino Piacentini, development director at the Galeria. Reports were filed with the San Francisco Police Department, though Piacentini told the B.A.R. that officers were not very responsive following the first incident. No officer even came to the Galeria to view the damage, he said.

That changed dramatically after the second incident; police called Gloria Jaramillo, executive director, upon discovering the smashed window and defaced piece of art. A third window had to be removed because of a crack that ran through it; the art behind it was not damaged.

After the first window-smashing, Jaramillo arrived at the Galeria September 1 and found not only one of the windows broken, but also an impromptu altar placed

there by someone in response to the violence. The altar was made from a blue milk crate and contained lit candles. On the sidewalk near it were written the words "Tolerance, love, and acceptance."

Galeria staff said they do not know the value of Donis's damaged art piece, including the broken light box featuring painted figures of Guevara and Chavez. Piacentini said they were going to attempt to repair one of the light boxes, but readily admitted it will never be the same. "Since it's a light box, light will always shine through the cracks."

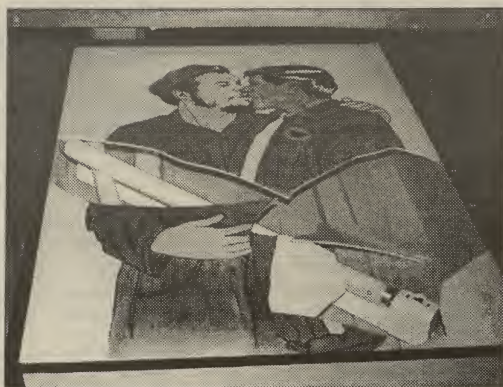
In addition to the violence, Piacentini said the Galeria has received several threatening letters and "lots of phone calls" since the installation's unveiling last month. The image of Guevara and Chavez kissing has caused the

most controversy.

"It's erasing the macho persona. It really offended and touched on homophobia that's in the Latino community. It sort of surprised me: I'd expected the religious figures to cause the most controversy, but after thinking about it, it didn't surprise me at all," said Piacentini.

Guevara was a leader of the guerrilla movement in Latin America; Chavez, who espoused nonviolence, was the leader and founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW) labor union. In his artist's notes, Donis said of the image, "In having them embrace and kiss, I am trying to melt down the stoicism that is inherent in male Latino heroic figures and address the fear in feminizing masculinity."

The same-sex kissing exchanged by icons includes pairings



Art attack: This buss between two Latino heroes provoked violence.

of Jesus Christ with Lord Rama, which was damaged in the first vandalism incident. Others, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., shown with a Knight of the Klan Cross - or Pope John Paul II with Mahatma Gandhi - cross racial lines as well as political and religious beliefs. Galeria spokesperson Yesenia Cardona stated that since the installation opened, community opinion has ranged from those who are extremely offended to

people who praised the exhibit as brave and thought-provoking.

Piacentini said the Galeria had hoped the exhibition would open a dialogue about homophobia in the Latino community; they probably got more than they bargained for.

"I think the Latino community has a long way to go. Not only the average person on the street, but also the so-called 'progressive' folks," said Piacentini.

page 19 ►

atlantis presents
las vegas
October 3-5, 1997

Friday
A benefit for
Aid for Aids
of Nevada
EPX
Reporters were filed with the San Francisco Police Department, though Piacentini told the B.A.R. that officers were not very responsive following the first incident. No officer even came to the Galeria to view the damage, he said.

inferno
hotter than ever...
music: David machine
& Michael reilly 11pm

saturday
desert beach
with the main act in Wet 'n Wild Water Park
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midnight oasis
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10pm til dawn
music: Michael Bierman
lights: Alan Parkinson (cosplay) & Joel Finkelman

sunday
dessert at
drink!
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musical buffet
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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OPEN FORUM

Banned practice

This is National Banned Book Week, a time to reflect on whether more harm arises from censorship or explicit books. And it couldn't come at a better time, now that the urge to return to the Victorian age has gripped so many Americans.

Anti-sex forces are escalating the battle, with radical right groups like Focus on the Family taking their anti-sex hysteria into bookstores to protest "objectionable" art books. According to news reports, group members are destroying books by California-based fine arts photographer Jock Sturges, who sometimes uses nude children as models. Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry boasts in a Focus on the Family website story that he went to a Barnes & Noble, "basically tore a page each out of the books," and challenged the store owners to have him arrested.

We're still getting over the shock of court rulings that something can be declared illegal kiddy porn even when the models aren't children, or naked, or real. This new development, of slash-and-burn anti-porners, has us stunned.

Why is this country so afraid of sex? Is it because, unlike Europe, we don't have tons of naked statuary as a constant reminder that people have sex organs? Should San Francisco be buying Davids and Venus de Milos (instead of the giant foot, for example) to place prominently as a way of desensitizing citizens to the shock of naked genitals?

Apparently so, for it isn't just Barnes & Noble that's getting bashed. A Different Light Bookstore on Castro has received shrieking complaints about a picture of a naked man in the window, and is inviting people concerned about censorship to stop by today (Thursday, September 18) at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate Banned Book Week and join their efforts to resist would-be Bowdlerizers who cheapen the concept of "obscene" by applying the word to any image of a naked person.

Similarly irritating is the way the con-

cepts of "pederasty" and "abuse" have become meaningless. While we do not doubt the sincerity of many of the men who are suing former parish priests and hockey coaches these days over decades-old sexual relations, we have to wonder how much of the sexual "abuse" that gets reported is simply a broad-cast-friendly way of saying "blowjobs." The word "abuse" used to mean something real, but its constant use to describe consensual sex, even intergenerational sex, has cheapened it and is an insult to anyone who has truly suffered abuse.

To paraphrase Sophie Tucker, we've been abused, and we've been blown, and blown is better. But as long as lawyers are willing to argue that getting sucked off constitutes abuse deserving of multi-million dollar settlements, the word will continue to be de-

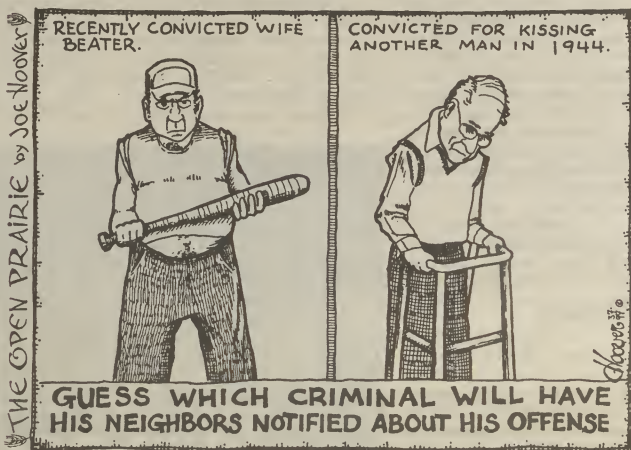
graded.

Meanwhile, the databases of "abusers" grow in size and number, some listing cases dating back more than 50 years. Originally designed to protect children, it now seems the overriding purpose is to maintain punishment for anyone who's ever been caught with his dick out. Right now Attorney General Dan Lungren is parading Megan's List to Los Angeles fairgoers, most of whom probably would not otherwise feel the need to look up whether their neighbors were ever caught cruising the local Sears men's room, but who will learn that information by stopping by out of curiosity.

And some of them will misuse that information against people who have served their sentences and are only trying to rehabilitate themselves in peace.

So who's abusing who here? ▼

Editorial



Let's take care of our young

by Kevin Jennings

If you're gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered, you probably don't need a lecture from me on how difficult school is for people like us. Well, at the risk of being the bearer of bad tidings, I wanted to share some news with you:

It isn't a lot better today for the vast majority of LGBT youth today than it was when we were growing up. With *Ellen* coming out and corporations like IBM passing domestic partner benefits, it's tempting to think everything is all better now. But consider these statistics:

- High school students hear anti-gay comments 26 times on the average school day;
- Teachers who witness these events do nothing 97% of the time;
- Two-thirds of all LGBT high school students are physically threatened or attacked because of their sexual orientation each school year;
- One in five LGBT students skips school at least once a month because they are afraid to go there.

The fact is, our community's growing visibility has stripped LGBT youth of their protective "cover," so that it is now open season on them in many schools.

It's time we started acting like adults and began taking responsibility for making the lives of the next generation better.

The true test of a community is how it takes care of its most vulnerable members. At times, the LGBT community has truly risen to the occasion, as we did in the face of the AIDS epidemic, when we banded together in the face of governmental indifference to care for the fallen.

But at times we've failed miserably, and nowhere is this more evident than in the case of our youth. We've built an entire community from which they are almost

completely excluded. Considering how these same youth are without a doubt among the most vulnerable members of our community, this is shameful.

But my goal here is not to make people feel guilty. As executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), it's my job to give interested folks ways to make a difference — so, in the spirit of my ten years as a high school history teacher, I humbly offer three pieces of homework for those who do want to get involved.

1. Go back to your old school. GLSEN has found that teachers don't take action on LGBT issues because they simply don't understand that homophobia is a problem. Hard to believe? Believe this: a stunning 82% of school administrators say they have no LGBT students in their schools.

By writing a letter to a former teacher or administrator, you can educate them and be a resource to help them make it better for today's students.

2. Pay attention to your community's school board races.

A 1997 National School Boards Association survey showed that a startling 54 percent of American school board members are religious conservatives. How did this happen? Because it generally takes only about eight percent of eligible voters (or fewer than 900 votes) to win a school board seat in a typical election.

The good news is that this low turnout means that it is easy for an individual to make a difference. Find out who's running in your community and demand that they take action to make the lives of LGBT students better. Run yourself if no one else will "do the right thing." School board members run our schools: let's run them out of town

if they won't make sure our youth are safe.

3. Make sure students have access to good books in their school and public libraries.

Remember turning to the card catalogue for information on LGBT people when young, and finding little or nothing there? All that's changed is the technology. When today's youth log on to the computer in their school library and try to access LGBT materials, they are likely to find nothing, as these books are the favorite targets of right-wing censors.

You can change that. Buy a good book and take it to your local school or public library. Ask to meet with the librarian. Explain why the book needs to be added to the collection, and see that it is. You may save someone's life if you do.

I'd like to see my generation be the one that takes responsibility for making sure no LGBT child ever feels harassed, alone, or victimized in their school ever again. To do that, we'll need to fight for every LGBT youth as if s/he was our own child because, far too often, their own "real" families won't. That's what adults do: they take care of the young. It's time for our community to grow up and act like adults. ▼

Kevin Jennings is the executive director of GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, the only national organization working to make sure that schools respect and value all people regardless of sexual orientation. For more information on GLSEN and its annual "Back-to-School Campaign," visit the web site at <http://www.glsen.org>, or call their national office at (212) 727-0135.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

What price Gay Games?

Last week the *Bay Area Reporter* printed an account of the reception hosted by Team San Francisco on September 4 in honor of four Dutch organizers of Gay Games V who visited from Amsterdam.

The article contains a factual error regarding the cost for an athlete to register for the Gay Games. To register, all athletes pay a general fee of \$57, plus a sport fee of \$52 (except for marathon and triathlon: \$26, half marathon: \$13, 10k: \$8, and chess: \$36).

The article states, "An additional \$107 is required of all pre-registered athletes." This is not correct. Pre-registered athletes get to subtract \$50 from the registration fee. So if the total registration fee comes to \$109 (\$57 general fee plus \$52 sport fee), the balance due for an athlete who pre-registered is only \$59.

Lisa Labrecque and Marcus Valera
Team San Francisco

[Editor's note: We apologize for the error.]

Diana, Ellen deserved more coverage

Princess Diana's memorial at 18th and Castro deserved to be the lead story the week of her death. Instead, with your usual provincial chauvinism, you ran a piece on suburban Unitarians. San Francisco deserves better than that kind of editorial judgment. The gay papers in my home state in the Midwest have broader coverage.

Readers should question papers that continually devalue stories involving women and refuse to see them as front page news. Studies have been done in San Francisco State's journalism department about how regularly women and minorities are relegated to back pages.

The B.A.R. ignored the Ellen phenomenon the same way. But how anyone could denigrate a woman who is even now raising millions for AIDS is "baffling," as her brother said in his eulogy. It's easy to see why there are so many complaints that the media are insensitive louts.

Sandy DeWine
Berkeley

P.S. You're a bunch of idiots.

[We deeply resent the sexism card being played here. The story about the Unitarians that we put on the cover was about a lesbian minister; in fact, two of the three front page photos were of women. We fail to see how that has "relegated women to the back pages," especially since the princess was relegated all the way back to page two. The comparison to "the Ellen phenomenon," however, is apt: in both cases those stories were beaten into pulp by mainstream media until most sensible people were sick of them. Anyone who thinks those stories deserved even "broader coverage" is addicted to pabulum.]

Grief Olympics (Sudden death round)

Unless the gay community shows as much grief, concern, and outward expression of sadness over the death of Mother Teresa as they have over Diana, their expression of grief over the death of Diana will have been nothing more than a sham.

William Healey
San Francisco

A note from the Dept. of Gross Distortion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank G. Modrell, Director of Humane Education Network, for his in-depth letter stating the ineffectiveness and invalidity of animal testing.

The human race should be listed on the endangered species list because of animal experimentation: remember the thalidomide disaster! Thalidomide was tested on rats that did well with it, but when given to pregnant women, the result was 10,000 babies born with the most gross physical distortions. Well, this is a result of animal experimentation!

We are truly at risk as long as we continue to take drugs that have been tested on animals. And our search for a cure for AIDS will never happen as long as we are extrapolating data from animal models.

Animal experimentation (vivisection) is a double tragedy. It is a fraudulent science. It isn't even logical. And billions of animals are tortured and killed every year to the benefit of only the biomedical industry.

Rev. Judy Fine
Healdsburg, CA

[Let's review your facts, shall we? In order to kill a billion animals a year, researchers would have to slaughter 32 animals every second, around the clock, for 365 days. Obviously - and as is usually the case with letters from animal rights activists - the figures are just spun out of thin air as needed. And that is why we generally don't rely on people who sell superstition for a living to tell us about what science can and cannot do.]

Gay Community Center about-face

I read with disgust and dismay the turnaround of the Gay Community Center Board of Directors' stand on the preservation of the Victorian building at Octavia and Market. They claim that they didn't know about the underlying soil problems when estimating the cost of refurbishing the building. They also claim that the interior is mostly void of architectural detailing.

These points are completely false.

I, as a longtime G.C.C. volunteer, toured these flats, and aside from being a cosmetic mess, most of the Victorian detail in these unique triangular units is still in place. The consensus was, in fact, that the building is remarkably sound. There is work to be done, true, but I, for one, think that it's always wise to preserve 100-plus-year-old historic buildings. There just aren't that many left.

They also claim that "all the architects in the competition" thought the Victorian should come down.

Also untrue. Cee, Pfau and Co. is the only architecture firm that I've heard of that is in favor of demolishing this historic building.

This building, integrated into the new structure, would add interest and depth of feeling to the new G.C.C. construction. The Cee and Pfau plan submitted for competition integrated the Victorian into their modern structure rather nicely. Why abandon this beautifully unique plan now?

We, as San Franciscans, should be excited at the privilege of restoring an historic building, not salivating at the opportunity of demolishing it, as is this Board of Directors.

This about-face and this abandonment of the truth brings up doubts for me about this Board and their ability to represent this community. Perhaps it's time for a new G.C.C. Board that better represents the interests of this community, and the quality of life of the whole city.

Rob Gregoff
San Francisco

PFLAG responds

As a member of the national board of directors of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and an active member of the San Francisco chapter of PFLAG, I would like to offer some comments on the News & Analysis article in your September 4, 1997 issue, entitled "The turmoil at PFLAG," by Bob Roehr. The article contains two major inaccuracies:

- No petition signed by 150 persons was presented at the August board meeting. It is true that a letter of no confidence in the executive director, Sandra Gillis, signed by all active regional directors, was presented. This was supported by a bill of particulars signed by eight members of the regional directors council. Approximately a dozen other persons, including past leaders, spoke or wrote to the board in support of the letter of no confidence.

- It is not true that half of the local PFLAG chapters have withheld dues. All chapters were recently invoiced for dues. Almost two-thirds responded promptly with payments. We are confident that many of the remaining chapters will respond to gentle follow-up.

The national leadership of PFLAG has given serious attention to the concerns expressed by the regional directors council, and we have taken firm action to address the causes and to restore confidence in the performance of the national office.

- In the late spring, Ms. Gillis implemented a major restructuring of the national office specifically to improve the quality of service to the chapters. I can report a significant improvement in the level of response and concern for chapters.

- At its May meeting, the board devoted the bulk of its business meeting to exploring the concerns of the regional directors, in-depth. Two working groups were appointed to bring policy recommendations to the August meeting for action.

- The August meeting was almost entirely devoted to an additional discussion of these concerns, in a framework of evaluating the over-all performance of PFLAG as an organization. In addition to renewing the executive director's contract, the board took strong action to implement new policies and procedures, including many recommended by the working parties, which directly address the causes underlying the concerns brought by the regional directors council and others.

We believe that these changes will allow us to rededicate ourselves to our mission of support for GLBT persons and their families and friends in a hostile world, education to make that world less hostile, and advocacy for equal rights for our loved ones. We believe that the national office can now focus on its dual roles of giving leadership and voice to the organization on a national level, and of providing the tools, support and service necessary to the chapters, where the work is really done.

Samuel Thoron
San Francisco

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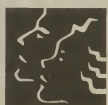
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Masculine members

I was thrilled to see Mike Schaefer's letter on masculinity (*Mailstrom*, 9/4). In fact, it was so masculine, so earthy, so rugged, and so much a signature of his status as a "Regular Guy" I got a boner just reading it.

In his August 7 *Examiner* piece "Looking for Love," Ray Delgado wonders why, even though (of course) "meeting guys" isn't "really a problem" for him, he's had "only one false glimmer of a relationship" in two years. Well, I'm not a relationship expert, but maybe Delgado is just a bit, shall we say, perfectionist. He picks apart no less than eight of the men he gets hooked up with by the two dating services he joins. None of the riffraff meets his Majesty's exacting standards. One guy's too old. One's too bland. One's too forward. One's too sexually frank.

Then, the *piece de resistance*: Delgado has himself photographed sipping Starbucks with one of his dates, has the photo plastered on the front page of the *Style* section, and proceeds to whine in print that he "didn't have the courage" to tell the unsuspecting guy the reason he wasn't calling him for a second date was that the guy was "a little too effeminate" for his taste. So instead of calling the guy, Delgado humiliates him in a public forum? Is that what Schaefer considers "masculine" behavior? If what Delgado did to his "date" is "called journalism," as Schaefer puts it, then the paparazzi who chased Princess Diana through the streets of Paris were good Samaritans.

And if what Ray Delgado did to his "effeminate" companion (who—since we are dealing with such absurdly subjective categories here—did not look the least bit effeminate to me) was simply an expression of "preference," not a mark of poor character, supreme narcissism, and general fucked-upness, then I am the Sultan of Brunei.

Gay men who get off on how "masculine" they think they are compared to other gay men are missing the point. To a significant number of heterosexuals, homosexuality is itself effeminacy embodied. Anything a male does that is not heterosexual, not conjugal, and not progenerative is, by definition, not masculine. There are clearly gay men out there who think the response to such prejudice is to become an inflated caricature of straight-jock "masculinity," but no amount of back-slapping and football-watching is going to change the dominant culture's bias. All their chummy chatter about fixing up vintage Alfa Romeos and going to Sharks games notwithstanding, the members of that ultra-exclusive, hypermasculine "Regular Guys" club, at the end of the day, still get down on their knees and suck cock.

Frank Martinez Lester
San Francisco

A Republican's refuge

[The following was sent to political columnist Wayne Friday:]

On some weeks your column is the only page I read in the *B.A.R.* Your pieces are always informative, intelligent, well-written, and I'm interested in what you have to tell us about political affairs. Further, in the September 4 issue there is a pleasant surprise in the inclusion of some complimentary comments made of a Republican.

Being a Republican is like being gay. You are what you are, you learn to live with it, and after you wise up and get smart you don't give a pickled dick what anyone thinks or says.

The strength of Conservatism is that its assumptions, basically, are those of the authors of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. These men were Calvinist in theology, Empiricist in philosophy, and knew that government must be in conformity with human nature and not in conflict with it.

Government is like a suit of clothes; it must be cut to a general pattern and then altered to fit the man. The basic weakness of Liberalism is that it is theoretical rather than actual; a suit is run up ideologically, and then the attempt is made to force the man into it.

Integration of public schools is an illustrative example. Theoretically, it's a fine idea, but it doesn't work even when the coercive power of government is applied to enforce it. Chelsea Clinton and other children of wealth, privilege, prerogative, and social rank are sent by their parents to exclusive, expensive private schools, upper-middle-class families move out into the suburbs, and the schools of the lower-middle class, working class, and poor people are abandoned to chaotic decrepitude.

There's another serious weakness in contemporary Liberalism. In the years when Liberalism became dominant in the U.S., its leadership was of exceptionally high quality. I'm ancient enough to remember Louis Brandeis, Robert Wagner Sr., Philip La Follette, Sidney Hillman, Frances Perkins, Harry Truman, and Hubert Humphrey. And even that old Populist Progressive George Norris. There were giants in the land in those days. Politicians such as President Clinton, Al Gore and Honorable Willie don't rise up close to the stature of these leaders of unusual integrity and competence.

Thor Thorwaldsen
San Francisco

Wired at birth?

At our recent Lavender Panthers meeting we had a very involved discussion on homosexuality being "sexual preference/ orientation/ nature or nurture," or whatever. We came to the conclusion that the more accurate concept is that of "prenatal wiring."

In fact, we came to the conclusion that maybe we should adopt more modern-day terminology and refer to it as "The Q Chip" (Q = Queer).

Phil Conway
San Francisco

'Wet' blanketer

Regarding Jim Provenzano's article on Pacifica's nudity law, am I just making too much of an issue out of this, or is it not appropriate to put into print in brackets the word "yum" when referring to a dripping wet 16-year-old Nick Cotrell? I enjoy and look forward to Mr. Provenzano's guileless style of writing/reporting. Perhaps he could be encouraged to keep the pederastic comments private.

Vivian Colt
San Francisco

[Um...yes.]

Defunding Esperanza

[The following was sent to the mayor and city council members of the City of San Antonio, Texas]

It has come to our attention that you are being urged to cut funding to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, specifically because it is associated with the gay and lesbian community. The "Family Alert" circulated by the Christian Pro-Life Foundation appeals to "those protecting family values," identifies Esperanza as an organization serving the "gay and lesbian community," and advocates defunding it for no other reason.

Not only would defunding on this basis expose the city to potential liability for violation of constitutional rights, it would also mark your city as one which is unfriendly—not just to the Constitution—but to the arts, to artists, and to tolerance.

Denying Esperanza funding because it represents a viewpoint or philosophy that is objectionable to some would be constitutionally suspect. The First Amendment protects freedom of expression, including artistic expression, from government suppression of "dangerous ideas" or "selected viewpoints." See *Rosenberger v. University of Virginia*, 1995. ("It is axiomatic that the government may not regulate speech based on its substantive content or the message it conveys.") This principle applies to funding decisions as well as other contexts: "[T]he government offends the First Amendment when it imposes financial burdens on certain speakers based on the content of their expression.... The government must abstain from regulating speech when the specific motivating ideology or the opinion or perspective of the speaker is the rationale for the restriction."

Ironically, in *Rosenberger*, the Court upheld access to funding for a Christian student publication, making a point that is apparently lost on the Christian Pro-Life Foundation: if censorship were permissible to silence viewpoints that are objectionable to some members of the community, their own ability to express their religious views might be in jeopardy.

Defunding Esperanza because of its association with gay and lesbian artists would raise other constitutional issues as well. Last year, in *Romer v. Evans* the Supreme Court reiterated that "if the constitutional conception of 'equal protection of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare.... desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest." Official action that "classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else" is something government "cannot do."

Even if no constitutional issues were raised by the threat to defund Esperanza, we would urge you for policy and economic reasons to continue to support art for and by all, selected on the merits. First, the selection process would predictably become dysfunctional if applicants' work can be challenged on the basis of content; someone will object to everything. Secondly, San Antonio is a respected center of artistic activity and draws both artists and patrons of the arts to the region. Discriminating against gay and lesbian artists and themes, and those who promote them, would change all that. You would be known, instead, as a center of ignorance and intolerance—the place where Oscar Wilde, Willa Cather, Langston Hughes, Gertrude Stein, Rock Hudson, Tennessee Williams, Leonardo da Vinci, Frida Kahlo, Pedro Almodovar, and countless others would not be welcomed or supported.

Don't cave in to those who would censor art because they don't like the message or the messenger. The very principle the censors want you to ignore protects their right to express their views about art they dislike. It doesn't allow them, or you, to suppress it.

Joan E. Bertin, Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship
New York, New York

POLITICS

William Weld loses the battle, but wins the war

by Wayne Friday

Even though former Massachusetts Governor **William Weld** lost the battle last week during an aborted meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee even to get a hearing on his nomination to be the next American ambassador to Mexico, he might very well have won the war to define the national Republican Party for years to come. Weld, a moderate Republican who was often called the country's most "pro-gay governor," knew that he had no chance of maneuvering around the powerful chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, the ultraconservative **Jesse Helms**. (Helms refused even to allow his fellow committee members to speak during the brief meeting called by a majority of the committee.)

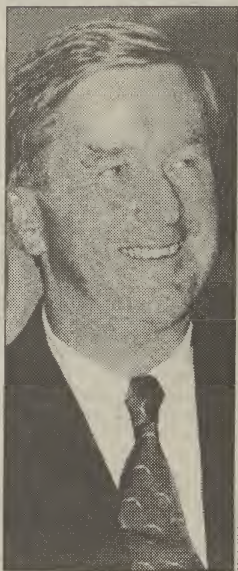
However, Weld was clearly on a mission that seemed to reach beyond the ambassador's residence in Mexico City. With all the hyperbole and elaborately staged press conferences (on both sides) aside, Weld will not become **Bill Clinton's** next ambassador to Mexico, and he knows it. In fact, on Monday, Weld withdrew his name for consideration for that post.

Weld just might, however, become a Republican force to be reckoned with at the 2000 GOP convention. Indeed, after all this hoopla dies down, the former governor will very likely either become a candidate for the Republican Party nomination (for the moderates) or receive his party's nomination for the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts in 2000 (when incumbent Senator **Edward Kennedy** is expected to retire). Weld and Kennedy, though of different political parties, are said to be "friends," and while many think Mr. Weld is setting himself up as a GOP presidential candidate, the Senate nomination is his for the asking if he decides to go that route.

If nothing else, the Helms vs. Weld show in D.C. last week showed the American voters which wing of the GOP controls the party machinery. Even Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott**, the only person in D.C. who could have overridden Helms, appeared fearful of doing so.

Bill Clinton and the Democrats, who want desperately to keep control of the White House after Clinton leaves office, can only be smiling. The fight for Bill Weld's hearing in front of the Helms-controlled Foreign Relations Committee was not really about Mr. Weld's ambassadorship, but about who controls the heart and soul of the Republican Party. Helms's "victory" left no doubt in anyone's mind that the GOP is now firmly in the grasp of the minions of the Far Right/Christian Coalition.

The Democrats looking toward the congressional elections next year and the presidential election in 2000 should hope that Jesse Helms stays healthy and is still around to help the party of **Franklin Roosevelt, John**



William Weld

Kennedy, and Clinton for at least a few more years. No one person personifies the Republican Party and where it's headed more than the honorable senator from North Carolina.

Politics and polls

Less than a year ago, the national Republican Party had all but declared victory in **Barbara Boxer's** 1998 re-election campaign. Suddenly, the GOP is not so sure. The latest Field Poll shows the senator now leading all of the likely GOP opponents (albeit not by a hell of a lot), and a probable bitter and expensive GOP primary battle next June between state

Treasurer **Matt Fong**, San Diego Mayor **Susan Golding** and San

Diego businessman **Darrell Issa** threatens to leave the GOP in disarray.

As for money (a problem since Boxer isn't personally that wealthy), she should be getting mucho moolah from the Democratic Party, plus the ever-popular Bill Clinton can be expected to raise big bucks for Boxer as well. Senator Boxer and the President are not only close friends, they are also family. Boxer's daughter **Nicole** is married to **Hillary Clinton's** younger brother, and the Clinton clan can be expected to go all out for her election next year. It is, of course, a bit early to call this one, but the early money would have to be on Barbara Boxer.

Veep **Al Gore** has been having a tough time of it lately. While Bill Clinton enjoys a job-approval rating hovering around 60 percent, Gore has seen his image tarnished by negative publicity concerning campaign fundraising (though similar publicity seems to have little if any effect on the President's popularity). Last week's *LA Times* Poll had Clinton with a 59 percent "overall favorable" rating on all issues, while Gore's rating has fallen to just 34 percent. These have got to be encouraging numbers for

Missouri Rep. **Richard Gephardt**, Minnesota U.S. Senator **Paul Wellstone**, New Jersey's **Bill Bradley**, and even **Jesse Jackson**—all reportedly interested in the 2000 Demo race. And yes, we can expect Attorney General **Janet Reno** to appoint an independent counsel to look into Gore's fundraising efforts. This guy goes into the 2000 presidential campaign with more baggage than Amtrak.

In Rhode Island, gay and lesbian activists statewide are protesting the arrest in North Smithfield of **Michael Simmons** for breaking an 1886 law against sodomy in that state. Simmons, 28, told police he was robbed during sex with **Steve Chausse**, 36. Chausse, incidentally, was also arrested and charged with sodomy—and robbing Simmons.

NYC Assemblywoman **Deborah Glick**, that state's only openly gay legislator, lost her bid last week to become Manhattan Borough president, but she retains her Assembly seat.

After Senator **Dianne Feinstein's** front-page interview last Friday in the *Chron*, many of those closest to the popular former mayor were saying, "It looks like she's ready to jump into it [the California governor's race]." I hope they're right, but I know the woman pretty well, and I confess I haven't a clue.

The recent BART strike probably should have never happened. A pox on both their houses! However, I can't recall a strike—anytime—when the public was against the union to this degree. Compare this strike with the recent UPS walkout, when the public was almost overwhelmingly on the side of the workers. A lesson to be learned here?

Lisa Hallinan, wife of DA **Terence Hallinan**, is hosting a fundraiser/reception at their Haight District home this Sunday, Sept. 21, for city treasurer candidate **Joel Ventresca** (3-6 p.m., \$25-\$100 donor's choice, 731-1434 for info).

One of the celebs who continues in the fight against AIDS but seems to get little credit is comedienne/talk show hostess **Joan Rivers**. This woman, who held one of the first AIDS fundraisers (when it was still called GRID), performs wherever she is asked, raises megabucks, and even does volunteer work. A friend who works in NYC for the "God's Love We Deliver" organization, a group that delivers meals to homebound AIDS patients, tells me that Ms. Rivers can regularly be found delivering food to the needy in New York City.

Hats off to Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** for his law to double the fines of red-light runners to \$270. It's long overdue.

The National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) will hold a "Body Politic" fashion show featuring clothes from some of the city's finer stores next Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Alcazar Theatre. "Models" **Willie Brown**, **Carole Migden**, **Terence Hallinan**, **Louise Renne**, and a gaggle of supes (any truth to the rumor that **Gavin Newsom** will be donning a Speedo?) will be strutting their stuff on the catwalk (no-host cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, donations start at \$50, 922-5004 for tickets and info). ▼

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10:45 am School-Age Children's Service

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, October 10

7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service

7:30 pm School-Age Children's Service

Saturday, October 11

9:30 am Morning Service

10:00 am Pre-School Children's Service

10:45 am School-Age Children's Service

3:30 pm Afternoon Service

4:30 pm Yom Kippur Names Service

5:30 pm Yizkor (Memorial) and Concluding Services

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Pedal power



Assemblywoman Carole Migden greets participants in the first "Ride for Rights" to benefit Breast Cancer Action. One-hundred-and-twenty cyclists completed the loop ride in Golden Gate Park and then enjoyed a pancake breakfast prepared by volunteers from the Human Rights Campaign.

Different for twits

by Beth Elliott

At this point, *Different For Girls* is still my favorite Joe Jackson song, not a movie I've seen, but there's nothing like watching men of whatever sexual orientation review movies with transsexual characters. The *Chronicle's* Pink Section did a sidebar on movies with transsexual heroines, only two of which cast women. Going for a particular effect in terms of physical look? Appropriate for Roberta Muldoon in *Garp*, but not necessarily elsewhere; I can't think of anyone who did a better job than Vanessa Redgrave as Renee Richards in *Second Serve*. At least the *East Bay Express's* quirky Michael Covino noted the clunkiness of casting a man in this new TS female role; this paper's reviewer, regrettably, noted the new film "has precious little to do with homosexuality and plenty to do with heterosexual angst." Gee, no foolin'? Most women's attraction to men is indeed heterosexual.

Hint: if you want to add "transgender" to the laundry list, you might take someone who's gone to the trouble of making it through surgery at face value. Just a thought.

Rainbow? What Rainbow? Dept.: I guess this "many faces, one community" talk and the rainbow flag representing our community's diversity is void where prohibited by groupthink. One expression of diversity — butch gay men wanting to socialize with other butch gay men and identify as men, not androgynes with an "inner female" — got royally flamed in a letter to this paper last week.

As a femme-loving femme type of gal myself, I understand how a man who is gay because masculinity in men turns him on (duh!) might have little interest in men who want to act womanly (and the more stereotypically, the better). Personally, I think lesbianism, which is to say women loving women, has been devalued and denied by those who want to reduce it to resistance to the patriarchy, or to women's appropriation of masculinity, or to gender anarchy, or to entertainment for

straight men, and other such anti-sapphic sentiments. That women would actually love, value, and lust for other women on their own terms, without serving anyone else's agenda, threatens a lot of people ... not just straight boys anymore, but a lot of people who identify as dykes or queers.

But rather than show evidence of having a life — or some real concept of what diversity actually means — this letter-writer insisted that opposites — butch and nelly — must attract. Dissing an environment in which "opposites no longer attract" is, by definition, a heterosexist thing to do. Then the letter-writer proceeded to throw a tantrum because some men are foolish enough to think diversity means they can choose to date only the type of man to which they're attracted, instead of making themselves public dating resources for their community.

Among the abuse heaped upon the man who took it upon himself to create a community resource in the form of a social group: that he is purportedly "self-oppressed" and "neurotic," has "low consciousness," needs to "learn how to breathe," and "release the woman [sic] inside him" (hint: he doesn't have one), is "tight-assed" in "mind and body," and is only butch because he had to be that way "for mommy and daddy," not because he might enjoy being a masculine man! (And by the way, how can someone try to be PC by spelling it "woman" yet engage in the sexist practice of calling a man "girl?" Just wondering.)

Perhaps the real crime was saying some ditz queen shouldn't hold his breath waiting for a masculine man who likes masculine men to ask him out! I should say a queen wannabe ... this letter was from a self-identified bisexual man (we wouldn't be trying to overcompensate as a queer for being below six on the Kinsey scale, would we?). Can't anybody around here actually believe in the lifestyle statement they try so hard to make — believe in it to the point

they don't need every other queer in the community to be totally impressed before feeling secure?

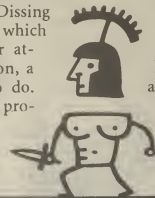
What's been going around that has those people trying to make political statements about the style and/or meaning of their queerness even more ticked off than usual by other gay people going their own merry ways? Not that long ago, some bozo writing an "Open Forum" piece for the *Chronicle* on the importance of

coming out suddenly, out of the blue and in the middle of his essay, took a gratuitous swipe at lipstick lesbians. He said we're all affluent and closeted and never do anything for our rights, we just run off to the clubs on weekends.

Excuse me? Do I have to go into this again, hauling out my track record while a lesbian hippie chick, reminding him I have just two words for him: Phyllis Lyon?

This paper's letter-writer, too, attempted to claim only his brand of queer — namely, the flaming gender-mixers — put together and took part in our three marches on Washington. As if! My hair was still down to my tush at the 1979 march. I remember how "ordinary" the vast majority of the marchers looked — and how powerful a statement that would make to the folks back home who thought we were only a handful of weirdos in New York, LA, and San Francisco, and their home-grown sons and daughters. Neither do I recall any of the flaming attention-seekers staying behind on Monday to lobby their representatives and senators.

There are a lot of non-mainstream-looking gays, lesbians, and transgendered folks who work their tails off to promote our human rights. So do a lot of us who feel secure enough in our sexual orientation that we don't have to wear it as a badge or make a fetish out of looking like a stereotype. For our troubles, we get called "assimilationists," or told we're ashamed when actually we're just less than impressed. To paraphrase an old saying, those who can, do; those who can't, show off. ▼



Sapphistication

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PHOTO BY BETSEY BRUNER



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Sex: why bother?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Why have sex? That's a question that can be answered at many different levels. At the simplest level, we have sex because we enjoy it. And that's fine.

But there must be some reason why nature arranged things so that we find sex enjoyable. One reason jumps to mind: sex, when performed between a man and a woman, can give rise to babies, and without babies the human race would die out. In addition, sex, whether of the gay or straight variety, is a kind of social glue that helps ensure cooperation and altruism—traits that are of obvious survival value.

At a more profound level, though, sex is a bit of a puzzle. Why do most creatures, including humans, have babies by means of sex, rather than through virgin birth? Why doesn't a woman simply manufacture a little clone of herself? Why have men at all? Why should a woman (or any other female animal) expose herself to male aggression and to venereal disease? And above all, why should she help reproduce someone else's genes? All the laws of evolution say that she'd do best to reproduce her own genes and only her own genes.

Virgin birth? It can't be done, you'll say. But it can. A lizard by the name of *Cnemidophorus uniparens*, which lives in the American Southwest, does it all the time. At some unknown time in the past these lizards had a lesbian-feminist-separatist revolution, and now only females are left. They have sex with each other, for sure, but they don't inseminate each other. Instead, each female produces her very own parthenogenetic offspring.

So why do most animals choose the apparently second-best route of sexual reproduction? In a general way, we know it has some-

thing to do with evolution. Potentially harmful and potentially beneficial mutations crop up at random. For evolution to occur, the beneficial mutations must be collected together to create unusually "fit" individuals, while the harmful mutations must be gotten rid of. Sex is a way to do that.

But just because sexual reproduction is good for the long-term survival of the species, that doesn't mean it's necessarily a good choice for the individual female. On the contrary, if a female had the ability to reproduce asexually, her offspring would rapidly expand in number over the ensuing generations and would soon replace all the individuals who were produced by sexual reproduction. Genes promoting asexual reproduction should therefore be selected, even though they might hinder the long-term evolution of the species. That's what happened, presumably, in the case of the lesbian lizards—so why hasn't it happened to us and all the other animals?

The closest thing to an answer to this conundrum has been provided by the Russian biologist and mathematician Alexei Kondrashev. In a difficult-to-read paper published in 1988, Kondrashev made two crucial assumptions: first, that the rate of occurrence of harmful mutations is far higher than previously imagined, and second, that the damage caused by harmful mutations is highly "co-operative": that is, two mutations cause more than twice as much damage as one (just as losing sight in two eyes is more than twice as bad as losing sight in one eye). With these assumptions, Kondrashev showed the distribution of harmful mutations in the offspring of sexually reproducing animals is more favorable than in the offspring of asexually reproducing animals. In particular, the sexually generated offspring include more

"lemons"—individuals who are riddled with harmful mutations and who therefore rapidly die, taking their mutations with them.

Sex has traditionally been thought of as a means to produce exceptionally high-quality individuals, so it's ironic that Kondrashev sees it the other way, as a means to produce exceptionally poorly-made creatures—runts, in essence. And Kondrashev is not shy of drawing the apparent lesson from his mathematics: because society now fosters the survival and reproduction of genetically disfavored children, he warns, the benefits of sexual reproduction have been lost, and our species' genetic stock must be deteriorating.

Perhaps there's a more positive way to look at it. First, to judge from the lesbian lizards, any deterioration that may be occurring must be very slow—it will take thousands of years to have a significant impact, and the technology to screen for and eliminate harmful mutations will be available long before then. Second, if there's no longer any advantage to sexual reproduction, then there's no longer any disadvantage to asexual reproduction. And thanks to Dolly the sheep, asexual reproduction may soon become a reality. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Jonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press), and the biomedical thriller *Albriek's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books). He is also a co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He may be reached care of the B.A.R. or at SLeVay@aol.com.

Catholic

◀ page 1

David Lloyd, chief operations officer for Catholic Charities, represented the agency. He said Catholic Charities will be happy to work with DPH staff on the matter, but reminded the commissioners of his agency's policy with respect to board members: "It is not our policy to require our board members to disclose their sexual orientation."

Without a moment's hesitation, Monfredini replied, "We're not looking to out anyone; [we're looking] at finding people who are open with their sexuality and comfortable with their sexuality. We're looking at creating a safe

environment not only for clients, but for board members."

Hill told the B.A.R. that he knows of gay and HIV-positive people who sit on Catholic Charities' board now, but are not out. "They're scared to disclose their status. They're out in the community, but not on the board," said Hill.

Hill was as blunt as Monfredini at the meeting, saying, "If you're going to do business with the health commission and the city, you need to comply."

Commissioner Debra Barnes called for a back-up plan regarding the contracted services. "I'd like to ask Jo Ruffin what our alternatives are. I don't want to find ourselves back here in November. Can this be put out to bid?" she asked. "With all due respect, we

need a Plan B."

Ruffin said her office is in the process of getting clarification from the state regarding the mental health services portion of the contract and other issues related to finding an alternative service provider.

Lloyd didn't have much to say; he never uttered the word "gay," and while he tried to say Catholic Charities has diversified its board, the commissioners did not miss the fact that while the board may include ethnic minorities, that wasn't the issue.

"We're talking about AIDS contracts," Monfredini said, referring to the fact that the DPH policy requires boards to consist of "representatives of the people being served." ▼

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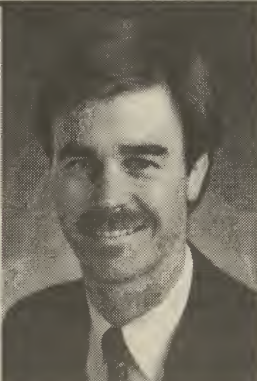
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Gay man to burst out of 'Veronica's Closet'

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media
resource center manager

Beginning Thursday, September 25 at 9:30 p.m., NBC's new comedy *Veronica's Closet*, starring Kirstie Alley, will feature a gay character named Josh, played by Wallace Langham. Adding a fresh spin to a television gay character, Josh premieres in the closet, even though the rest of the cast knows that he is gay. While the cast's knowledge is assumption, it is not through traditional stereotypes by which he is defined. At one point, Josh is talking to Veronica (Kirstie Alley) about breaking up with his girlfriend. He ponders, "I don't even know why we broke up." Veronica looks at him and matter-of-factly replies, "I don't know ... maybe it's because you're gay!" Josh begins to deny it and Veronica tries to assure him, "You are a gay man!" He protests, "What is it? I mean, you and my mother." Veronica smiles at him and gives him a little kiss saying, "We just want you to be happy."

Josh's sexual orientation is such a non-issue with his co-workers that one wonders why he was not out of the closet to begin with. However, GLAAD has learned from sources at NBC that Josh will not remain in the closet for long.

To let NBC know that the gay character on *Veronica's Closet* is appreciated, and encourage the network to continue to develop Josh in a well-rounded manner, contact Warren Littlefield, President, NBC Entertainment, 3000 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91523, e-mail: entertainment@nbc.com.

World sees gay couple mourn Diana

Thanks in large part to live feeds from British networks Sky News and ITN, the American media coverage of the Princess Diana funeral and memorial services featured two gay men comforting one another. According to viewer reports to GLAAD, coverage by at least E! Entertainment Network, MSNBC, NBC,

CBS, and ABC included a montage of mourners in London that had two men embracing and weeping, and one of the men gave the other a comforting kiss on the forehead. In addition, the September 15 issue of *Newsweek* features an image by the Associated Press of two men holding one another in mourning.

Considering that over 33 million Americans (86 percent of the audience share) watched the funeral and surrounding coverage on television, this casual inclusion of gay people showed how we are, indeed, everywhere and a part of the mosaic of society.

To commend the magazine and networks for recognizing the value of representing gay people in one of the most-watched news events of the decade, and to encourage them to continue this kind of inclusive coverage in the future, contact Edward Zarcoff, News Director, E! Entertainment Television, 5670 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, fax: 213.954.2621; Andrew Heyward, News President, CBS Television Network, 524 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019-2902, fax: 212.975.9387; Richard Wald, Senior Vice President, ABC News, ABC Television Network, 77 W. 66th St., New York, NY 10023-6201, fax: 212.456.2381; Andrew Lack, News President, NBC Television Network, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112-0002, fax: 212.664.7234 (also for MSNBC); and Maynard Parker, Editor-in-Chief, *Newsweek*, 251 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019-6999, fax: 212.445.5068, e-mail: letters@newsweek.com.

Intersex people hidden behind potted plants

An otherwise excellent September 3 *ABC Primetime Live* story entitled "Boy or Girl?" on intersex issues and the debate over medical genital mutilation of intersex children ignored the voices of intersex activists and misrepresented certain key facts.

Featuring talking heads of doctors and a mother who had struggled with the decision to have her child surgically made a girl, the story examined "what can happen when doctors are forced to play God," according to correspondent Diane Sawyer. While one pediatric surgeon who opposed the controversial surgery was represented, a great deal more time was spent with Dr. Gearhart, a pro-surgery advocate who pronounced certain intersex children "boy" or "girl" during a slide presentation.

Primetime Live failed to mention that Gearhart has always refused to engage in a dialogue with intersex activists.

In addition, the only adult intersex person *Primetime Live* presented was a man who was disguised by a large, floppy hat, dark lighting, a pseudonym, and an altered voice.

"By failing to use footage of openly intersex activists which they had already filmed, *Primetime Live* cast the story in a sensational slant reminiscent of the 1967 CBS interview of a shame-filled homosexual hiding behind a potted plant," said Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) Director Cheryl Chase.

In addition, the program failed to note the support resources now available for intersex people. In an ISNA press release, psychologist Dr. Howard

Devore added, "It is unconscionable to present this as a problem of merely getting the sex right or wrong. *Primetime* did all their viewers a disservice by not informing them of the worldwide network of intersex advocacy organizations and the availability of peer support for the option of a healthy intersex identity."

To urge *Primetime Live* to do a follow-up story to allow intersex people to speak for themselves openly and honestly, and to place the story in a context that acknowledges the strides made by intersex activists and advocacy groups in the past five years, contact Phyllis McGrady, Executive Producer, *ABC Primetime Live*, 147 Columbus Ave., 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10023, fax: 212.456.1246.

'SF Chronicle' looks back at transgender films

In anticipation of the release of the critically acclaimed film *Different for Girls*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured a September 6 article on the history of transsexuals in film. "Kim, the modest secretary in *Different for Girls*, isn't the first big-screen transsexual, but she's one of the first whose gender reassignment and surgical history weren't treated with freakish curiosity," it begins. Going back to "the dour biopic" *The Christine Jorgensen Story* in 1970, the article notes that "the movie manages to be simultaneously dull, lurid and embarrassed by itself." It dis-

cusses *Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde*, a 1971 movie about a transgender serial killer, but fails to mention the far more popular *Silence of the Lambs* (1991). Along with the works of John Waters and Rainer Werner Fassbinder, PBS's *Tales of the City* (1994) and John Lithgow's Oscar-nominated performance as Roberta Muldoon in *The World According to Garp* (1982), it describes Terence Stamp as "demure and poignant" in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994).

As audiences around the country discover *Different for Girls*, which opened September 12 in limited release, the *Chronicle's* placement of the multi-layered film in a historical context gives the film even greater depth.

To thank the *Chronicle* for this brief history of film representations of transsexuals, contact Jerry Roberts, Managing Editor, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 901 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103-2988, fax: 415.896.1107, e-mail: chronletters@sfgate.com.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glad@glad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).



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Rodrigues goes to Katz from SFAF

by Cynthia Laird

Timothy Rodrigues, the openly gay media relations manager for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) who has had his mettle tested regularly by press inquiries over controversial issues at the large AIDS service organization, has resigned. On Monday, September 15, he started work at City Hall as the third aide to openly lesbian Supervisor Leslie Katz, after the Board of Supervisors approved hiring an additional full-time constituent services aide for each supervisor last month.

"Supervisor Katz has always impressed me with her ability to look at an issue and look for a solution with all parties involved," Rodrigues told the B.A.R.

Katz is just as complimentary to Rodrigues. "I'm thrilled," she said. "Timothy's done a lot of community outreach and constituent service work with former Supervisor Harry Britt's office and the SFAF."

Rodrigues was an intern at Britt's office many years ago, and said the former supervisor gave him his start in government and community work. "Harry was always concerned that his office be available to people who needed it," he said.

With that training, Rodrigues said he'll be able to "bring more



Timothy Rodrigues

capacity" to Katz's office, especially when it comes to constituent communication, in his new job. Earlier this year Katz told the B.A.R. that her office receives between 30 and 40 phone calls an hour, or 300 calls a day — plus numerous e-mail messages. Many of those calls are from people looking for help through the city's bureaucracy or for assistance with a particular issue.

He also served as deputy campaign manager for Carole

Migden's reelection campaign when she ran for supervisor in 1994.

Rodrigues told the B.A.R. that he felt it was time to move on; he had been with the SFAF since November 1995 and handled a variety of duties, including being the foundation's spokesperson to media inquiries. On matters ranging from high administrative salaries to focus group reports about clients' perceptions of the foundation, he often spoke on behalf of SFAF's Executive Director Pat Christen.

Christen acknowledged that Rodrigues will be missed, but said there are no immediate plans to replace him, because the foundation is considering restructuring the department.

"I think he's been a terrific asset to the foundation," Christen told the B.A.R. "He's bright, articulate, and very strategic; he'll be a benefit to any office he works for."

Added Derek Gordon, the foundation's communications director who was Rodrigues's supervisor, "I'm going to miss him terribly. His skills were invaluable to the SFAF, but I know this move is a great career opportunity, and I know he'll do a terrific job." ▼

CUAV seeks hotline volunteers

by Dennis Conkin

Community United Against Violence is looking for volunteers to staff the 18-year-old anti-violence group's hate and same-sex domestic violence crisis hotline.

A three-week CUAV crisis line counselor training begins next Monday, September 22, and continues through October 8 at the agency's 973 Market Street offices, according to Tamara Sherman, CUAV crisis line coordinator.

The training will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and on two Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Each session covers different topics related to the volunteer position, with training sessions on basic listening and counseling skills; cultural sensitivity education; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues; and specific information about hate-related and domestic violence situations that callers may face, Sherman said.

CUAV volunteers will also practice role-playing and crisis counseling skills, and hear from panels of survivors of hate and same-sex domestic violence speaking about their experiences.

A panel of criminal justice experts, including Crystal Weston from the San Francisco District Attorney's Family Violence Project, Assistant District Attorney Maria Bee, and a San Francisco police officer assigned to the police hate crimes unit, will discuss restraining orders, emergency protective orders, how the court system works, and other legal topics.

Callers are trained how to evaluate calls about hate and domestic violence and to know when to

suggest that callers need to call the police, or come into the agency for follow-up counseling or more in-depth assistance with safety planning or victim assistance and advocacy. And because some crisis line callers may call about needs and topics that are not specially related to hate or same-sex domestic violence, volunteers will also receive training about local resources and referral phone numbers and other general information to provide non-crisis callers.

A major requirement for CUAV crisis line volunteers is "good listening skills," and staffers are never far from a second crisis line worker as back-up; Sherman also provides supervision and support.

"It's very difficult work," she said, "and we do offer a support network. I check in with volunteers regularly."

Volunteers are asked to make a six-month commitment to the crisis line by working one shift a month after the training is concluded, Sherman said. The line is currently staffed by some 20 volunteers who monitor the hotline when CUAV is not open — and who usually stay between a year and 18 months.

The agency is attempting to obtain credit for the volunteer work-experience for local students, and is in the process of making the hotline multi-language accessible.

The CUAV crisis line is funded partially by the California State Office of Criminal Justice Planning. ▼

For more information about the September 22 training, or to apply for future crisis counselor trainings, contact Sherman at (415) 777-5500, extension 315.

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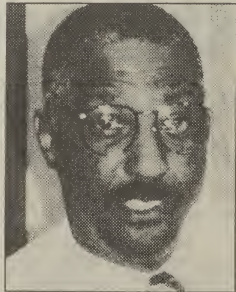
Saxxon goes to Ammiano from Brown

by Cynthia Laird

At City Hall, legislative aides to the 11 members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors come and go; amazingly, a senior aide is, in many cases, someone who has been there a mere two years. Sometimes, though, an aide may leave the supervisor for whom he worked, but not leave the board. That's exactly what happened recently when Larry Saxxon, the openly gay aide to Supervisor Amos Brown, decided to move on down the hall; on Monday, September 15, he began working for openly gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano.

"My feeling is, this is where I belong, but let's be honest, I jumped ship," a relaxed Saxxon told the B.A.R.

He said little about Brown, who hired Saxxon shortly after being appointed to the board in May 1996. Given the decidedly mixed reaction Brown received from the gay community when he was appointed, it surprised many that he hired an openly gay aide. Since then, however, Brown has consistently supported many HIV/AIDS and gay issues, including condom distribution in bars, needle exchange, and the city's landmark domestic partner benefits law. Saxxon said the two have "been through a lot together, and I wish him well. But Tom is a clas-



Larry Saxxon

sic progressive legislator. He's showing people he's a hell of a lot more than a gay legislator. This office's agenda is as wide as the banks of the Mississippi."

Saxxon also brings a great deal of expertise in a variety of areas, particularly HIV/AIDS issues; he worked at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) in the 1980s, when the epidemic was raging and there were few AIDS organizations. "It gave me a baptism by fire. We broke ground, we didn't think we had any black clients."

After he started working there and African-Americans heard there was a black social worker at the SFAF, Saxxon said they were lining up to receive services. "They were so sick when they came in," recalled Saxxon.

His background in AIDS ser-

vices doesn't mean that's all he'll be doing; Ammiano's staff, senior aide Angela Calvillo, and Saxxon will be joined by newcomer Brad Benson this Monday, September 22, and will divide up proposed legislative projects and work as a team. As Saxxon said, "I can't do just the AIDS stuff; we've all been there."

"Larry has a history with housing issues, but we'll be bringing him up to speed on Tom's tax proposal," Calvillo said.

Ammiano is pleased to have Saxxon on board. "I'm really delighted to have him as part of the Ammiano team. Only good things can happen," he said.

Mike Housh, who had been Ammiano's longtime aide, resigned to move a few blocks away: on September 8, he started his new job as secretary to the San Francisco Library Commission. Housh said he's always been interested in the public library system. "It's been part of every job I've had."

As an African-American gay man, Saxxon said he's sick of the fact that he and other black gay men are often asked and sometimes forced to "choose" which group to represent. He's also sick of the divisiveness that has crept into the gay community, where often scarce funds are fought for based on race or gender.

"I'm glad to be here, and I'm not asked to be gay or be black or be bi. I'm just asked to be Larry," he said. ▼

Liz, Tina, and Magic get Passport to SF

by Dennis Conkin

Basketball superstar Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Hollywood film legend and AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor will team up with special guest rock singer Tina Turner this Thursday, September 18 to kick off the opening night gala of Macy's Passport '97 at Fort Mason Center.

The 15th annual "Fashion Theater" Passport extravaganza will take place over three nights, including an evening sponsored by American Express on Thursday and a Friday night fashion show that will be previewed at the already sold-out opening night gala.

Taylor and Johnson will host the September 18 event, featuring Turner, supermodels, sports stars, and other celebrities who will step down a 120-foot catwalk to raise funds for their foundations and local AIDS services groups.

Turner, whose appearance is sponsored by Haines Hosiery, is scheduled to include three songs in her appearance.

Also appearing at the opening night gala are musician George Clinton, and designers Kenneth Cole, Lisa Baday, Max Azria, and Marc Echo. Supermodels Tyson Beckford, Matt King, and Irina are also scheduled, as is actress Kim Cole.

Presented by American Express, the spectacular annual fashion show on Friday will feature the best of Macy's fall collection for men, women, and children. The show



Elizabeth Taylor

has raised \$4.2 million in funds for HIV/AIDS research, education and care since 1988. In 1996, the annual event raised \$1.5 million.

Tickets to the Friday night fashion show are \$50 and \$35 each.

The event benefits California Pacific Medical Center Foundation for the HIV/AIDS "Living Well" program, Oakland's Children's Hospital Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Continuum HIV Day Services, Project Open Hand, Project Inform, UCSF/Macy's Center for Creative Therapies, and other groups.

In addition to Friday's fashion show, Macy's also sponsors Passport-In-Store on Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Macy's Union Square, to benefit 27 local HIV/AIDS groups. Special events during the day-long fundraiser include *Sports Illustrated* one-on-one golf lessons, home entertainment seminars

presented by *Home* magazine, and a *Vanity Fair* fashion show featuring Liz Claiborne, GUESS, and Polo Ralph Lauren.

Customers will be able to buy \$10 Passport-In-Store tickets from the 27 participating Bay Area AIDS service groups—with all of the ticket price going to the group—and ticketholders will receive 15 percent off merchandise throughout the store, except Easy Spirit Shoes and any cosmetics or fragrances.

Ticketholders also can receive ten percent off at Virgin Records Megastore at Stockton and Market streets, where they can purchase a special "passport inspired" CD for 11.99. In addition, Levi Strauss has created a special \$50 black Passport '97 "Fusion" denim jacket for the occasion—with all the proceeds earmarked for the AIDS service groups.

Last year the in-store event raised more than \$80,000 for local HIV/AIDS service groups. This year's beneficiaries range from AIDS Benefit Counselors, the AIDS Emergency Fund, and the AIDS Legal Referral Project, to the Women's AIDS Network.

The gala opening night event will be taped for broadcast by KGO television and will air at 6 p.m. Sunday, October 12 as a special one-hour broadcast. ▼

For more information about any Macy's Passport event, contact the Passport Hotline at 1-800-334-6158.

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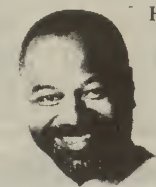


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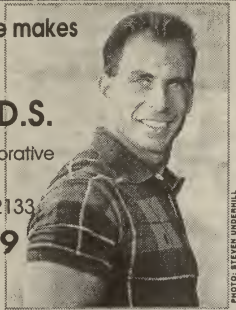


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Dr. Hal Call turns 80 this week

Mattachine founder has had a helluva ride so far

by Randy Collins

"Only when police chased a Chicago advertising salesman, Hal Call, out of the windy city in 1952, did San Francisco get its first permanent gay activist."

— Randy Shilts,
The Mayor of Castro Street

A trip to Harold Call's Circle J Cinema in San Francisco takes on time tunnel qualities. Regulars in trench coats brave the rough neighborhood across from Glide Church to spend long days and nights on the notorious vinyl church pews that some East Bay Puritans sold Call (technically "Dr. Call," but "Hal" to his associates and "Uncle Hal" to many friends) in the decadent '70s. Businessmen, trolls, punks, military men, working-class dudes, and occasional college gayboys unite as porno panelists to review the collection of 5,000-plus fag films. Three screens each rotate three shows, totaling nine features in about four hours. One screen shows predominantly in-house unreleased footage unofficially known as "Gold Couch Capers."

Pews or no pews, this is no Sunday School.

A visit upstairs (if the doctor is seeing patients) will reveal the video library, where Call will be sitting on that same Gold Couch, watching nine screens of hard cock in the background, with one screen on CNN in the foreground. A bottle of vodka — with a pump — will be in the corner for Wednesday and Saturday social visits with drinking chums who, with Call, religiously watch *Jeopardy* and *Wheel of Fortune* in front of and oblivious to the nine screens of naked action.

Sharp and articulate at 80 (as of this week), Call blurts out the majority of the answers before the contestants.

Set the wayback machine

Harold Call was born September 20, 1917, and raised in Missouri. In his twenties he served 30 months commanding a WWII Army infantry battalion in combat duty in the Pacific, where he insists his sexuality never once interfered with his duties.

"Them GIs jacked off in them trenches," he now recalls in his distinctive no-nonsense style. "We were aware of homosexuality in all levels of the military. Let some of those old-timers, those old bastards with stars on their shoulders, let them go to pasture for good if they can't stand it. We're changing!"

When the war was won, Call returned to his native Missouri and received a degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1946. By the late '40s, he had developed and sold off an innovative and flourishing regional newspaper devoted to feature film news and reviews. This valuable experience would repeat itself throughout his long career, although he never dreamed of the drastic change of subject matter that would transpire in the next few decades.

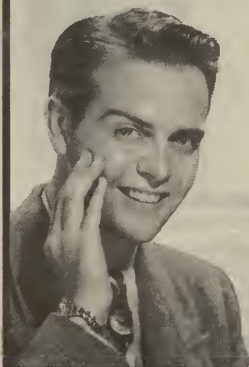
The early 50s found Call in Chicago working as an ad salesman for the *Kansas City Star*. One night in August 1952, as he and three acquaintances sat in a parked car near a police precinct, they were arrested and held on lewd conduct charges. One of the men couldn't take the heat, and agreed to point the finger at the others. After an \$800 bribe was paid and the case dismissed, Call decided to head west to San Francisco, a place that was known to tolerate pixies, fairies, and men who enjoyed the company of other men.

The right to congregate

In February 1953, Call helped to establish the San Francisco chapter of the Mattachine Society,

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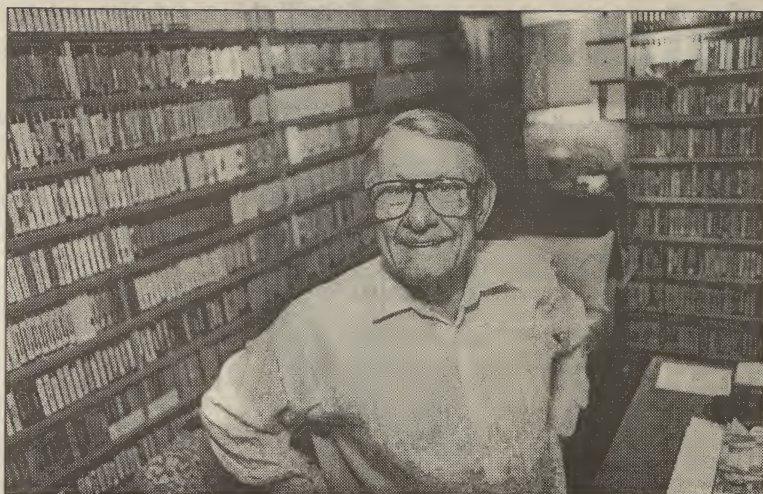


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Porn again: Dr. Hal Call poses with a small part of his vast collection.

a nearly clandestine social club for homosexual men, the first group of its kind known to exist. Considering that most authorities considered any congregation of more than two suspected homos a public nuisance, Mattachine's very existence removed the bottom brick in the wall separating gay rights from human rights. And with one brick gone, others became emboldened to chip away at that wall. As Call now says, "The early movement got its impetus for outreach from the SF chapter."

Call's publishing background was a priceless asset that helped give rise to *The Mattachine Review*, one of the first publications to discuss homosexuality openly in America. This was blasphemously radical, and of course the mailing list was secret. Call and his partners founded the Pan Graphic Press in 1954 to publish the *Review* as a labor of love, plus other more commercial publications for profit to keep the ball rolling. "In the 50s," he recalls, "printed matter on homosexuality was very meager indeed. Most problems centered around law enforcement."

In 1959, San Francisco Mayor George Christopher was re-elected by a wide margin when his opponent blunderously tried to use the pervert/deviate issue against him, citing his tolerance of Mattachine. Call remembers that as the first instance in which the controversy was used in a political election in the U.S.

The beginning of tolerance

On New Year's Eve 1964-65, a drag charity ball held at California Hall was raided by SFPD vice officers who saw it as Sodom and Gomorra revisited, even though everyone was fully clothed and no sexual activity had occurred. This time it backfired. There were a host of politicians and clergy present and this, coupled with a general public sentiment of basic tolerance, led to the beginning of a long process of understanding between law enforcement and the gay community.

In a landmark 1967 Federal Court case, Conrad Germain and Lloyd Spinar of DSI Sales in Minnesota were charged with 29 counts of producing and mailing obscene materials. The government prosecuted its case based on the proposition that the DSI materials appealed primarily to homosexuals, and therefore would automatically be classified as obscene. Unbeknownst to many mainstream gay historians, Call was instrumental in securing and organizing the expert witnesses who testified on behalf of DSI,

and helped the Court reach a stunning decision.

In a seven-page ruling that nudity was not obscene, the Court stated "the materials have no appeal to the prurient interest of the intended recipient deviant group; do not exceed the limits of candor tolerated by the contemporary national community; and are not utterly without redeeming social value. Furthermore, the court concludes that the evidence does not suggest pandering..."

Directly addressing the subject of homosexuality, the Court said, "The rights of minorities expressed individually in sexual groups or otherwise must be respected. With increasing research and study, we will in the future come to a better understanding of ourselves, sexual deviants, and others."

Ironically, the notorious case opened the floodgates to a new generation of explicit publications, and the *Review* no longer had the impact it had once enjoyed.

"Sometimes I feel that I helped unlock a Pandora's box," Call now says.

"Everyone was predicting that American society as a social institution of marriage and family would not last another two and a half years," he laughs. "We got over that."

As taste in gay periodicals changed, the Society reluctantly folded up the *Review* and became relatively dormant, taking a back seat to the new generation of in-your-face queers who called themselves "gay lib." Call's philosophy was "Evolution, not Revolution," based on the notion that assimilation and contribution work better for the movement than confrontation and hostility.

The Pan Graphic Press continued to crank out locally-produced gay-related publications, and Call opened the Adonis bookstore on Ellis Street in the early '70s, on the same block where his current place of business sits today. Adonis carried the magazines, books, and eight-millimeter films that proliferated during that era of nearly unrestricted freedom from censorship. At some point in the '70s - Call doesn't bother to remember when - the store was busted on obscenity charges, but he refused to budge in his belief in freedom of the press, and the charges were dropped. Also that decade, the Adonis bookstore begot the Circle J Cinema, spawning its current incarnation as a review parlor and jackoff club.

In 1991, Call received the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality's honorary Doctor of Arts in Erotology (the study of erotica), hence the designation Dr. Call.

In 1995 he donated \$50,000 of Mattachine money to the new Gay Studies Program at the University of Southern California under the auspices of the One, Inc. Foundation, a Mattachine counterpart and colleague group.

USC now offers fully accredited gay studies, houses the Mattachine and One, Inc. archives in its library building - and even boasts an all-gay dorm and pool - all thanks to private funding by contributions from Call and others. ▼

The wit and wisdom of Dr. Harold Call

"I was brought out by an older man. I was 13. He was 14."

"The beautiful people in the world are those who have a lot of sex ... the ugly ones are those who do not ... how true that is."

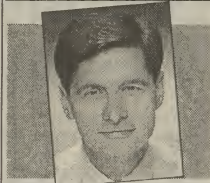
"I think that the Jesse Helmses and Sam Nunns ... that we have as prominent spokesmen for the anti-sexual situation in our culture today ... are some of our most maladjusted psychosexual human beings ... I don't envy them a bit! Sexually unemployed, pompous, pious, political empty-headed experts blowing hot air ... and their asses are sucking wind!!!"

"One of the problems we're saddled with that really handicaps so many individuals in society today are the old taboos of the Judeo-Christian religious heritage ... [that] have destroyed the lives of uncounted millions of human beings. That's how the religions of the past get control of the population. ... When you control sex, you're in charge ..."

"If we could get the fundamentalist bible thumpers to keep their noses in the bible and out of the newsstands, then the world would be better off."

"If heterosexuals dislike homosexuals so much, why do they keep reproducing us?" ▼

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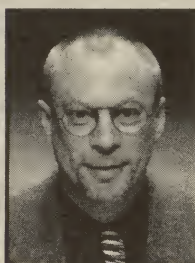
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Treasurer candidates square off

Leal, Ventresca, Bermúdez share their views in SF's only contested race

by Cynthia Laird

In 48 days San Franciscans will go to the polls and cast ballots for a city attorney who is running unopposed, several ballot measures, and a new city treasurer in the only contested race on the November 4 ballot. The two candidates generally viewed as underdogs, Joel Ventresca, a budget and policy analyst at San Francisco International Airport, and Lucrecia Bermúdez, an immigrant rights organizer, are trying to put some life into the contest as they campaign against Supervisor Susan Leal, who is expected to win the race. While Bermúdez is a Latina lesbian like Leal, both say that any similarity between them ends there. Ventresca is hoping to capitalize on name recognition he garnered while actively opposing last June's 49er stadium campaign.

Leal, Bermúdez, and Ventresca were interviewed by the *Bay Area Reporter* to find out how each would run the treasurer's office, and to get their positions on the two primary responsibilities of the office: investing the city's approximate \$2.5 billion portfolio, and overseeing tax collection. What follows are their qualifications and how each sees the role of treasurer for the city and county of San Francisco. The winner in November will take office in January, replacing retiring Treasurer Mary Callanan, who has held the office since 1980.

Leal: fiscal background

Leal, a Democrat, has received endorsements from virtually every San Francisco politico - from Mayor Willie Brown to her sometimes adversary on the board, Supervisor Gavin Newsom. In fact, nine of the supervisors have endorsed her. The city's representatives in Sacramento and Washington, DC have given their support as well. With the near unanimity among politicians, however, comes criticism from her opponents, something Leal brushes aside.

More significantly to Leal, just about every queer group that can make endorsements has also lined up in solid support. Recently, both the Queer Latino PAC (political action committee) and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) announced their endorsements for Leal; earlier endorsements came from the Latino Democratic Club, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Democratic Club, and the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club.

"I think some people attack me because I'm supported by the mayor," Leal said. "But I've also been independent of the mayor. I think I'm the most qualified candidate out there."

Leal said she's been involved in politics since 1993, when former Mayor Frank Jordan appointed her to the board; she easily won reelection in 1994. "That [politics] is not my background. My background is that I'm an economist, I'm a lawyer." Before becoming a supervisor, Leal helped start and manage a healthcare management firm that grew from four to 1,500 employees.

Prior to that, Leal served as counsel to a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee that investigated healthcare issues. She then worked as a senior consultant to the state Assembly Ways

and Means Committee, where she drafted the state's \$4 billion health budget for the Assembly.

Currently, she chairs the supervisors' Finance Committee and was instrumental in helping find \$10.5 million in "excess funding" from various city departments during this summer's budget process. The money was reallocated to nearly 40 services and programs. The city's budget is \$3.4 billion for 1997-98.

To date, Leal said her campaign has raised \$70,000; the maximum amount of money that can be raised under local and state law for the race is \$175,000.

Bermúdez: drafted to run

Bermúdez said she's running for treasurer because the Immigrant Rights Movement (MDI), with which she is affiliated, decided to participate in local politics. MDI selected her to run, she said. Last year she ran for supervisor and received 12,079 votes, or one percent, placing 20th in a field of 28 candidates. That doesn't discourage her. "For us [MDI] to be involved ... we have to participate in different campaigns," said Bermúdez. "To let offices be decided by traditional political parties is a mistake."

Bermúdez is not affiliated with any political party and said she will not spend more than \$1,000 in her campaign; she was unsuccessful in getting Leal and Ventresca to agree to limit their campaign spending to that figure.

Endorsements for Bermúdez have come from MDI, the Peace and Freedom Party, the Nader for President Committee, and the Lesbian/Gay People of Color Committee.

Besides her work on behalf of immigrants (she was a leader in the campaigns against state propositions 187 and 209), Bermúdez works as a finance advisor to nonprofit organizations and is treasurer of Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA). She is also on the finance committee of the Funding Exchange Network, a national group of 14 progressive foundations. She said that the largest budget she has overseen is \$10-\$15 million.

That Bermúdez and Leal are both Latina lesbians is the end of any likeness between them. "There has been a lot of identity politics. We're trying to move to not be identified as LGBT, to move beyond that. Sure we're [both] queer, but there are queer conservatives and queer progressives," Bermúdez told the *B.A.R.*, clearly identifying with the latter.

Queers have achieved political stature, she said. "It's such a strength in the life of this city. It's a given now, you can't keep queers out of politics. It's not just because they're queer, we're part of it."

Ventresca: an 'independent voice'

Ventresca filed his campaign papers at the last minute, so what made him decide to enter the race? "I'd been thinking about it for a few months. I believe I have the academic and professional background ... and could turn the treasurer's office into a top performing department," he said.

Supervisor Leland Yee is the lone board member supporting Ventresca; other endorsements have come from former San Francisco mayors George Christopher and Joseph Alioto, and Civil Ser-

vice Commissioner George Kosturos. Supporters Neil Eisenberg and Doug Comstock are serving as his campaign co-chairs.

Since 1987, Ventresca has worked in the facility operations and maintenance division at SFO, which has a budget of \$50 million; he calls the airport "the best managed city department" because it generates revenue and operates on an annual budget of \$250 million.

Prior to that, Ventresca served as the director's chief assistant at the Children's Council of San Francisco. He was also a chief assistant at the city's Commission on Aging, where he supervised 27 staffers; another 1,200 workers who fulfilled various contracted services were monitored by his department. He administered grants, contracts, and budgets for the \$11 million department as well as prepared its annual budget.

"I understand civil service rules, union contracts, and the city's financial system," Ventresca told the



Joel Ventresca

B.A.R. "I believe the issue comes down to whether we want an independent person or a person who's aligned to the political machine."

"An independent administrator or an administrator who succumbs to political pressure?" he asks rhetorically. "I think we need an independent voice."

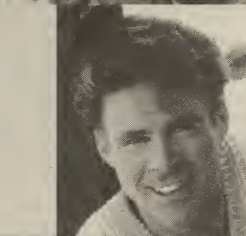
To date, his campaign has

raised \$12,000 for the race.

Ventresca has also been a neighborhood and environmental leader; he served on the city's environmental commission from 1994-97, and was president of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. A Democrat, he was president of the San Francisco Democratic Club.

Stands on investments

Investing the city's money is no small feat; state law prevents cities and counties from investing in stocks or mutual funds, for example. Rather, the city's money must be invested in low-risk and very liquid investments. The city's portfolio is approximately \$2.5 billion; that's the amount of money the city has available for short-term investing. Each of the candidates has a different view of this part of the treasurer's job, with Bermúdez and Ventresca claiming to favor more "progressive" policies, and Leal saying she's committed to the city's portfolio being as socially re-



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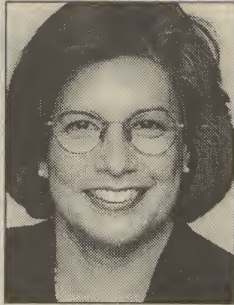
sponsible as possible.

"People may say, well so-and-so claims to be more progressive, and I'm not conceding that, but this is not a free-wheeling policy job," said Leal. "We are restricted by state law to limit those investments to low-risk and very liquid investments."

If elected, Leal would also follow city law, meaning no funds would be invested in North Ireland or Burma. Primarily, the city can invest in government bonds, T-bills, and commercial paper. The city can also invest in some corporate bonds, but that is very limited.

"The bottom line is to invest the city's money to make the best return with low risk, because we need that money so we can spend it on essential services in this city," Leal said.

Bermúdez has a different view; she said that making money for the city via investment returns also means making money for the citizens of San Francisco. If elected, she would invest money locally through a fund that would invite small businesses and individuals to take part in a partnership that would invest in their neighborhood's small businesses and industries, job creation, and the formation of economic development zones.



Susan Leal

"It's a huge responsibility in terms of money and how we manage the money in a different way," said Bermúdez. "I think the office can have a lot of improvement, and I'd be changing the vision of the office."

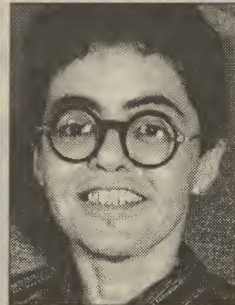
Ventresca said he believes more of the city's portfolio could be invested in things other than government bonds. Despite the regulations governing investment of city funds, there are other options. "We could invest in banks for cooperatives," he said. "Of course, we want the highest return, and they have to be liquid."

The question of politically cor-

rect investments has already surfaced in the race. Reports have been published that Leal owns stock in the controversial company Glaxo-Wellcome, but she told the B.A.R. that she has already divested the stock because of community members' concern that Glaxo is stalling the development of a potentially promising AIDS drug, 1592. The giant pharmaceutical company's Zantac antacid product is being boycotted by some AIDS groups, including ACT UP/Golden Gate and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF).

Leal told the B.A.R. that she wanted to set the record straight about the issue. Although it has been reported that Leal owned Glaxo-Wellcome stock as of the August 8 Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) filing, a copy of Leal's FPPC disclosure obtained by the B.A.R. clearly shows Leal divested the Glaxo stock in August.

"When Paul [Wisotzky] got up at the AIDS Walk and called for a boycott [of Zantac], based on that, I sold it," Leal said of her decision to dispose of the stock. Wisotzky, who is gay and living with AIDS, is chair of SFAF's board of directors. He called on the 25,000 people who participated in the July 20 AIDS Walk to boycott the Glaxo antacid.



Lucrecia Bermúdez

On tax collection

Overseeing the tax collector's office is the second major job of the treasurer. The revenue received by the city is crucial for continuing to provide city services; the three candidates outlined their proposals to maximize income.

Of primary importance to Leal is that tax collection become much more user-friendly; for example, the current system doesn't allow people to pay taxes with credit cards. Another area that needs improvement is the off-street parking tax revenue that's generated from parking garages.

"Off-street parking is basically a cash business, and we need to put in more inventory controls. The city receives \$35 million a year from this, and there are indications that we can increase that by another five to 10 percent," Leal said. "I haven't heard anyone [her challengers] say they would improve tax collection."

Leal said the city also needs to be more aggressive when it comes to large corporations going through a bankruptcy so that the city is paid its tax revenue; when a company files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the city is listed as the first creditor to be paid.

Bermúdez said that the city gives big business too big of a break when it comes to taxes, and she would change that. "We are home to large corporations here, and some, like PG&E, are not paying adequate taxes. The Gap is getting a \$62 million credit from the state for a warehouse. Corporations are not giving the city its fair share."

She supports progressive taxation; the bigger the corporation, the more they should pay, so that smaller business owners and homeowners would pay less, Bermúdez explained. "Citizens can not make these kind of payments."

San Francisco is the most corporate-friendly city in the country, said Bermúdez, and instituting these policies would serve to close loopholes. She was asked what would happen if the businesses decided to pack up. "Would they move and take jobs? That's always a threat," she acknowledged.

Ventresca also supports progressive taxation, saying, "The more you have been taxed, the rate of taxation increases."

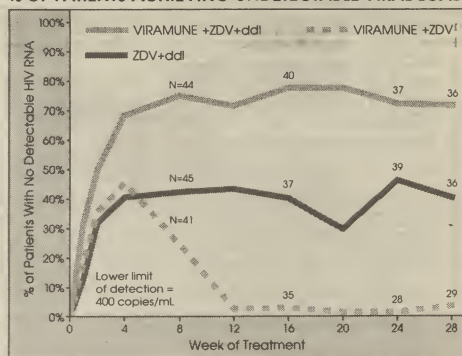
If elected, he is particularly interested in looking at taxing non-resident executives, people who work in San Francisco and commute to homes in other cities. Those who earn over \$150,000 annually can be taxed a percentage of their income, he explained. "Non-resident commuters are not paying for the infrastructure. I've consistently supported a downtown transportation transit district assessment. Muni was designed to move the workforce in and out of downtown."

He would also make the tax collector's office more efficient so that problems can be corrected quickly. One example, he said, is that as many as half of the businesses are not reported with the city, as required.

"The no-nonsense, business-like approach at SFO: that's what I'd like to move to the treasurer's department," said Ventresca. ▼

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Vandals

◀ page 5

"The Galeria sees itself as a key site for the self-examination of Latino culture, and hopes the valid questions posed by Alex's installation are absorbed into the ongoing dialogues about Latino identity," Jaramillo stated.

The Galeria has called the Mission District home for the last 27 years; this month's attacks and threats against it are the first since the 1970s, when well-known Chicano artist Yolanda Lopez was threatened for her depiction of the Virgin of Guadalupe as a feminist icon. ▼

Sunday's community forum will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Brava! Theatre for the Arts, located on 24th Street between York and Hampshire. Galeria de la Raza is located at 2857 24th Street, at Bryant. For hours, call (415) 826-8009.

Sex offender CD-ROM at LA County Fair

by Ron Lazar

Cotton candy, corn dogs ... and lists of sex offenders: things are not as they used to be at the Los Angeles County Fair. This year Attorney General Dan Lungren has a booth, between the Ferris wheel and the merry-go-round, where six computers spin CD-ROM databases of sex offenders for anyone who wants to peruse them.

After being made available at local police stations for public viewing for months, the controversial "Megan's Law" CD-ROM is now on the road. It was presented at the Sacramento County Fair last month and opened at the L.A. County Fair last week, where it will continue until next Sunday, September 28.

Megan's Laws have been passed across the country as a way of addressing parents' concerns about sexual predators in the neighborhood, but the manner of presentation and accuracy of the contents have the American Civil

Liberties Union raising serious concerns.

Interestingly, only 1,133 people have signed on to view the database in Los Angeles County since it became available. By attracting more people to view the list at county fairs, some say, Lungren is inflating the perception that this anti-crime approach is more successful and of more interest than it actually is.

Liz Schrader of the Los Angeles office of the ACLU told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "At the Sacramento County Fair, apparently, 4,000 people viewed the CD-ROM. There is a much larger audience at the L.A. County Fair. I think they expect over one million to one-and-a-quarter million people at the fair itself, which means it can be expected that maybe between 6,000 and 7,000 people will look at the CD-ROM."

Sara Brown, a spokesperson at the state Attorney General's office, confirmed the number, and proudly added, "Of the 4,000 people who viewed the CD-ROM at the Sacramento fair, over ten per-



Dan Lungren

cent recognized somebody who either lived or worked in their community. Soccer coaches, golf instructors, a Bible study teacher. These people have committed crimes in the past."

Besides the sheer numbers of people viewing the lists of names, Schrader said of the notion that

the public views such information in an entertainment environment, "By taking the CD-ROM and putting it in the setting of the county fair, where you have crowds pressing in to view it—with a lot of pressure on the person to move on and a lot of pressure on the staff to make sure that as many people view it as possible in as short a period of time as possible—you really are reducing that personalized attention, and the calm atmosphere in which people view the CD-ROM at the local police station, in which officers have an opportunity to have a discussion with the person who comes in and does the viewing."

"I find this very distressing. I think that the Department of Justice's actions are very ill-advised for a number of reasons. First of all, we already know that there are very thin protections in place when people go and view the CD-ROMs at local police stations. There is this piece of paper someone has to sign that says it's illegal to use information gained off the CD-ROM for illegal purposes."

However, we know that four days after the CD-ROM went into effect, a person's car was fire-bombed in Covina."

Knee-toucher listed

Schrader points out the fallibility of the CD-ROM itself when she says, "The other problem, I think, that the state Department of Justice really ought to take seriously, is that the data itself, we know, is corrupt. There is approximately a 40 percent error rate in the data in the L.A. County area. People are going to be looking at information and not be able to interpret it accurately, largely because it's inaccurate."

According to Schrader, the information also does not differentiate between recent violent crimes and old victimless misdemeanors, such as consensual sodomy. She said the ACLU's concern is that "the CD-ROM lists people with sex offenses going back to 1944." That case involves a man, now 90, who was added to the sex offender list because he touched an undercover officer's knee in a parked car 53 years ago.

"The ACLU is trying to educate people that this is a poor way to approach the problem of sex offenders. There are 64,000 people listed in the CD-ROM in California. There are not 64,000 dangerous people on that CD-ROM. Actually, only about 1,200 are considered high risk. And there are people who are, quite frankly, on there erroneously."

Older gay men, according to Schrader, are perhaps made unfair targets. "Certainly, there are older gay men who should not be on there at all. The state legislature recognized that and changed the statute in 1976 and made it [a misdemeanor sex offense] a non-registerable offense. However, the computer can't tell the difference, so not only do older gay men show up [on the CD-ROM] as sex offenders, but the worst aspect of it is, because the Penal Code statute number is the same [Penal Code 268A], they are listed as child molesters."

"Certainly the vast majority of people who are listed on the CD-ROM are not community threats," Schrader said. "They are not someone of whom the public should be afraid."

Lungren denies the database is inaccurate, and said in an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* that the CD distinguishes between the 44,000 misdemeanor offenders and the 1,200 "high risk" felony convictions—although both require registration and inclusion on the CD-ROM. Lungren commented that the CD-ROM "tells exactly what they have been convicted of" and that those listed as high risk are only "people convicted of three or more violent sex offenses, or two violent sex offenses and a violent non-sex offense."

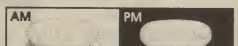
Finally, he said, "There are about 6,000 additional individuals who are registered as sex offenders for whom this information is not made public: those are individuals who are involved in spousal rape and a couple of other categories. So not all categories are involved, but most, in fact, are."

How to get off

Brown told the B.A.R., "There is not one person on the CD-ROM—there have been absolutely no reports that there is somebody on there—who has not committed a crime." But about com-

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WARNING:

VIRAMUNE (NEVIRAPINE) IS INDICATED FOR USE IN COMBINATION WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV-1 INFECTED ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CLINICAL AND/OR IMMUNOLOGIC DEGRADATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN SURROGATE ENDPOINTS IN STUDIES OF UP TO 48 WEEKS DURATION. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS FROM CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF VIRAMUNE WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ON THE CLINICAL PROGRESSION OF HIV-1 INFECTION, SUCH AS THE INCIDENCE OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS OR SURVIVAL.

THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE.

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE IS contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components contained in the tablet.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). VIRAMUNE must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise. (see PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients; ADVERSE REACTIONS)

VIRAMUNE therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE, some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on readministration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Rifampin/Ribavirin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or ribavirin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE.

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE.

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in dosing period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames, Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicity studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE at a median of 5.6 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 286 patients treated with VIRAMUNE experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE is rash, with VIRAMUNE-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase III controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ddI or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization, and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE due to rash.

Table 1. Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV +ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

^a At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily.

^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events; except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported.

Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

Table 2. Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241		Trial BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	Grade 3/4 events		All severities	
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of selected adverse events	31%	23%	42%	33%
Rash	8	2	20	3
Fever	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral Neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Parosmia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Laboratory Abnormalities: Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 3. Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE n=252	Control n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be considered.

OVERDOSEAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE overdose. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE for one day.

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.



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RX-1841BW (8/97)

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CALIFORNIA NEWS

Dills saves the day on gay rights

by Marghe Covino

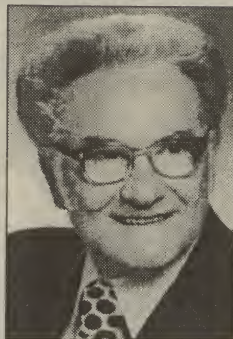
Most people picture superheroes as colorfully caped comic book characters who arrive just in time to save the day by flying through the air. Gay activists in Sacramento have a more realistic view. According to them, the hero who rolled into the California Senate just in time to save the vote on the gay civil rights bill AB 257 was 87-year-old Senator Ralph Dills (D-El Segundo) — in a wheelchair.

The ailing senator is recovering from knee surgery and general ill health, but knew his vote was crucial in the passage of AB 257, authored by Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles, which would amend the Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Some Democratic members of

the Legislature, alleged to be looking for cover in their districts, were abstaining from voting on the bill, so Dills's vote was crucial to the bill's passage. The Senate voted along party lines, and the bill passed 22-18.

Dills has served as the conscience of the Legislature, both as an assemblymember and a senator, since 1966. Despite partisan politics and his stance as a "true progressive," Dills has garnered great respect on both sides of the aisle. He has been a professor, lawyer, judge, a lifelong Mason, a Shriner, a member of the Farm Bureau, and in 1968 established the Senator Ralph C. Dills Foundation, the first Sickle Cell Anemia Pilot Project at the City of Hope Hospitals.

Dills sums up his commitments by saying, "I'm dedicated to securing the opportunity for full citizenship, protection of personal and civil rights, and availability



Senator Ralph Dills

of jobs, homes, education, health-care, and recreation for all people."

AB 257 will go to Governor Pete Wilson for either signature or veto. ▼

Three AIDS bills go to Governor Wilson

by Marghe Covino

In the last three days of session, the California Legislature finally passed important HIV/AIDS legislation that will affect not only the lives of patients but that of their families and survivors.

The California state Legislature passed AB 1099, a bill by Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) that would allow HIV/AIDS and other disabled people to return to work and continue to receive subsidized medical and drug therapies, with an overwhelming 77-0 vote. The bill is now on Governor Pete Wilson's desk.

"This bill gives people with HIV/AIDS or other disabilities the opportunity to once again become taxpaying workers by assur-

ing them of adequate medical coverage and access to otherwise costly life-saving drugs and therapies," Migden said. Her bill was written in response to a dilemma faced by people who, because of the exorbitant cost of their medications or treatment, have been supplemented by Medi-Cal.

Because of medical advances such as the use of protease inhibitors, many people are able to return to work but are unable to do so either because the employer does not provide medical coverage or their health plans would not cover their expensive therapies. The bill allows workers to make up to \$2,500 per month and still maintain lifesaving Medi-Cal subsidies.

Assemblymember Kevin Murray (D-Culver City) authored AB 49, which ensures that dependents

of workers who die of an HIV infection sustained in the workplace will receive workers' compensation death benefits. The bill was amended in the Senate and passed on a 22-12 vote, and those amendments were approved in the Assembly 51-27.

The Assembly also cleared SB 1035 on a 48-27 vote. The bill by State Senator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles) allows the Department of Health Services to set up a pilot project that would study the cost effectiveness of early intervention to potential Medi-Cal patients living with HIV.

All three bills have been sent to Governor Pete Wilson's desk for signature. He has until October 11 to sign the bills into law. He can also veto the bills or allow them to become law without his signature. ▼

CD-ROM

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cerns over names of those convicted of lesser sex offenses being lumped in with violent sex offenders, she said, "Having consensual sex in a car is not a registerable offense. I'll have to look at Penal Code 290. It is an offense, but it is not a sex offense, I mean, consensual sex?"

She said that "by supplying the Department of Justice with a Certificate of Rehabilitation, [an erroneously named person] could get off the list," but she was unclear about how long would take for a name to be removed. "I would have to talk to our program people about the exact, um, process," she said.

Schrader was more forthcoming, if not exactly optimistic. "It is a difficult, time-consuming procedure," she said, "but it can work. I actually successfully got somebody off [the list] before the CD-ROM went into effect."

"First, you need to get the record expunged," she explained. "To do this you need to go to each individual court in which you had a conviction, and go before a judge. Then you need to go back again and get a Certificate of Re-

habilitation. The third step entails going to the state Department of Justice. It is not easy to do, because the underlying facts, which are the key here in showing that the person was improperly on the list, may be gone."

Schrader said she is not entirely against the idea of providing communities with information they can use to protect themselves from sexual criminals, and applauds law enforcement when they behave prudently with the information. "Particularly in smaller communities," she said, "a number of police stations have taken the information that is inaccurate on the CD-ROM, and they have corrected it by hand and made their own community maps."

"Police in the communities also know the people who are listed on the CD-ROM, and in many instances can quell people's fears about who lives in their neighborhoods and whether or not these people really pose a danger."

Brown, on the other hand, said, "The attorney general trusts the public enough with this information that they will use it to simply protect themselves, their families, their neighbors, their communities, to make them more aware of people living and working in those communities."

"These sex offenders, while they do have privacy rights, you do need to weigh those rights with the right of the community to protect themselves against sexual predators."

Balancing rights would indicate that some consideration is given to the rights of those attempting to rehabilitate themselves, or at least avoiding recidivism. But with incidents like the one in Covino, many whose names are on the CD worry they will be next.

Brown downplayed the concerns, saying, "As far as the situation in Covino, I personally, and I can double-check this, have never heard of that being substantiated that that was specifically a result of a CD-ROM viewing."

Lungren, however, admitted, "I am also concerned about it. That's why in enacting this law we managed to get enhanced penalties: I believe that is three years additional prison sentences for someone who commits a crime based on someone utilizing this information. There is also a misdemeanor offense for the misuse of this information."

"I think that is as far as we can go in terms as protecting against vigilantism. We tell people not take laws into their own hands." ▼

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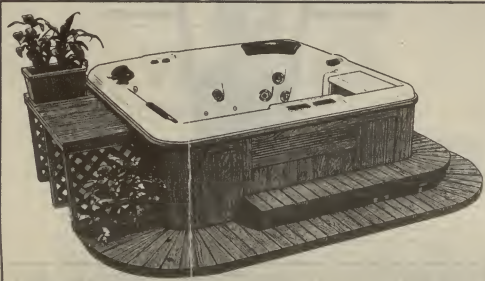


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Follow the bouncing balls



The Sept. 14 "Cointrepauphy" fundraiser for AmFAR at Golden Gate Park's Marx Meadow was a bumpy affair. Local bartenders got patrons to sponsor them in the race, and prizes were awarded to the fastest (a \$200 Kenneth Cole gift certificate) and the best fundraiser (a pair of round-trip airplane tickets to anywhere in America). The former was won by Judge Ripley (that's his name, believe it or not), and the latter by Diane Brent. Awards were handed out by hunky Baywatch star José Solano.

Antioch school candidate sends mixed messages on book-banning

by Mauricio Cea

On Saturday, September 6, when the Antioch/Pittsburgh Teachers Union interviewed all the candidates running for the Antioch school board in Contra Costa County, candidate Francine Hand said she opposed banning textbooks such as *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, and *Positively Gay* by Betty Berzon, which is kept at the Antioch High School library.

Taken at face value, that statement puts Hand at odds with the right-wing group "Parents Involved in Education" (PIE)—even though she serves as its secretary—and her own history of calling for censorship.

As viewers of televised PIE meetings are aware, PIE is antagonistic to gay rights, and leading members have frequently spoken out against gay references in textbooks. Hand, in fact, wrote a let-

ter to the *Antioch Ledger Dispatch*, printed on May 8, to complain about an educational video that "does not include the medical risks or the psychological consequences associated with homosexual behavior."

PIE members Dennis and Pam Angelo also wrote to the paper in January to criticize teachers who attended sessions on Affording Equal Opportunity for Gay and Lesbian Students, Building Self-Esteem, Integrated African-American Social Studies, Workplace Equity for Gay and Lesbian Educators, and so forth.

Hand's promotional flyers state that she is in favor of "parental rights." According to Americans United for the Separation of Church and State (AUSCS), "parental rights" are frequently at the expense of student needs, and could lead to vouchers and drastically altered public school curricula.

"Parents who disagree with

evolution science, for example, could sue to have such materials altered or completely removed, and have them replaced with religiously-affiliated dogma," an AUSCS informational flyer points out. "This could permit one parent's personal or religious views to supersede and overrun the education of the rest of the public school's students."

Antioch school board member Claire Smith also stated her advocacy of "parental rights" on her campaign flyers during the last school board elections. ▼

To obtain more information on PIE and similar groups, contact the Anti-Defamation League in San Francisco at (415) 981-3500; Americans United at 1816 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington DC, 20035; or People for the American Way at 2000 M Street NW, Suite 400, Washington DC, 20035.

Shalala

◀ page 1

terests and the principles of public responsibility when law enforcement agencies need access to health information," Shalala said in her proposal.

The legislation says that such access is needed to weed out healthcare fraud by providers and patients.

The proposed law would not change any laws that currently limit access to such medical records data by law enforcement officials, but Shalala's failure to restrict the access of police to medical records with federal law is a serious oversight, policy experts and gay rights activists argue.

"Although we support the ad-

ministration's attempt to create legislation that would codify the privacy of the patient-provider relationship, we are dismayed that the recommendations do not restrict law enforcement agencies from gaining access to medical records without patient consent," Plumb said.

Plumb testified in June before the DHHS National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics about the need to restrict access to such data, and said that unless such privacy protections were enacted, people with HIV and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender patients would not be able to have forthright discussions with their health care providers about their medical and health concerns.

Plumb also expressed concern that the issue has been ignored by many healthcare advocacy and

patient's rights groups.

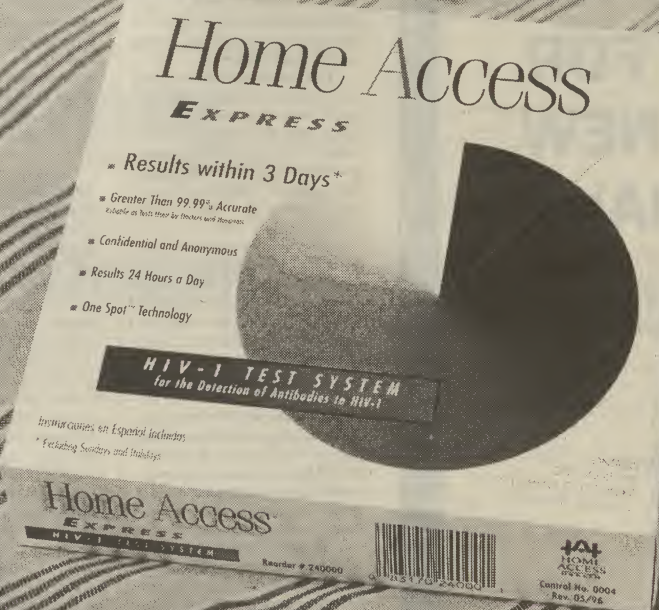
"At the hearings in San Francisco, there were only two people on the advocacy panel: me and Eileen Hansen," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Hansen, director of public policy for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, called the Shalala measure "truly frightening," and said it showed the "continuing erosion of civil rights and constitutional protections" by political forces who claim that the "need to know" outweighs civil rights.

Concern over the medical privacy issues is underscored by a recent GLMA national survey of gay, lesbian and bisexual physicians that found when a patient's sexual orientation is disclosed, gay and lesbian patients run a serious risk of encountering discrimination. ▼

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Crowned heads



The new Mr. and Miss GAPA, Noel and Cookie Wong, take their first walk as royalty at the climax of Runway '97, perhaps the most well-attended of local beauty pageants. An overflow crowd thrilled to 16 candidates, their fantasies, their gowns and their careerwear. A panel of celebrity judges also selected Jennital Wertz, Miss Tiza, Pramoen and Dan as runners-up.

Sonoma County business honors gay suicide victim with memorial fund

PRNewswire

The Petaluma, California-based Tzabaco Catalog company announced Thursday, September 11 that it has created the Jacob Orozco Memorial Fund, in response to a tremendous outpouring of grief and anger over a gay Utah high

school student's tragic death. Tzabaco established the fund with an initial \$2,500 contribution in honor of Orozco, who reportedly took his own life after a two-year battle against school district apathy toward gay and lesbian students' needs.

Along with schoolmates at East High School in Salt Lake City, Jacob had formed a Gay-Straight Student Alliance, a support organization for students dealing with issues related to teen sexuality and homophobia. Recently, the school board had reportedly placed additional financial obstacles — a requirement that the club purchase insurance — in the way of the group meeting. Orozco hanged himself in his mother's home September 4. A memorial service was held in Salt Lake City September 12.

"This [memorial fund] should cover the cost of any more supposed 'insurance policy' requirements that the Salt Lake City School District throws in the path of the gay-straight support group that Jacob led," said Stuart Harrison, director of Tzabaco's Safe Schools Initiative.

Other circumstances surrounding his death are unknown. Orozco was slated to become the next president of the East High School Gay-Straight Alliance, which gained public attention in 1996 when its straightforward quest to provide support to kids in need was met by a wave of homophobia in the Utah State Legislature. Effectively condemning these kids, the Salt Lake City School District banned the meeting of all extracurricular activity groups during public school hours, rather than permit the Gay-Straight Alliance to meet.

"The memorial fund is a simple way for anyone gay or lesbian and their supporters everywhere to express their concern over this young man's senseless death," said Harrison. Funds raised will be distributed to gay-straight student alliances around the country to help them meet the financial burdens that often are associated with their formation and continued existence. It is estimated that less than one percent of schools in the U.S. have support groups for gay students.

A 1994 study for the Massa-

chusetts Department of Education indicates that high school students hear anti-gay epithets like "faggot" and "dyke" an average of nearly 30 times a day. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in six gay and lesbian teenagers is beaten up so badly during high school that they require medical attention. Nationwide, gay youth are four times more likely than their straight peers to attempt suicide, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1989 and later studies).

In addition to Tzabaco's contribution, PlanetOut, the AOL and Web-based gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender online community, and *XY Magazine*, the nation's leading publication for young gay men, have also announced their support for the Memorial Fund.

The largest direct marketer to lesbians, gay men, and their families and friends, Tzabaco catalogs feature "Community Partner" merchandise, where a published amount of the purchase price is distributed directly to organizations working to establish equal rights for lesbians and gay adults and youth and agencies working in the fight against AIDS. Customers see exactly how much is donated to each organization printed next to the item.

The Tzabaco Catalog Safe Schools Initiative supports advocacy, programming and outreach projects to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. It is the principal sponsor of the GLSEN/Tzabaco Back to School Campaign, which encourages gay adults to return to their school systems to help create change in the climate for today's gay students. The Initiative is funded in part by the Tzabaco Catalog Lesbian and Gay Community Fund of the San Francisco-based Tides Foundation. ▼

To donate to the memorial fund, call 1-800-856-1667, reference Jacob. For a Tzabaco catalog, visit the website www.tzabaco.com or call 800-857-1667. For more information about the Back to School Campaign, see the guest opinion on page six.

Political stars shine for DC Task Force

by Bob Roebr

Senator Ted Kennedy's rousing introduction, Coretta Scott King's moving acceptance, or Vice President Al Gore's "surprise" appearance: which was the highlight? The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) certainly had much to choose from at their "Honoring Our Allies" event held in Washington, DC last Monday, September 15.

Executive director Kerry Lobel told the crowd of over 200, "We work to build a progressive movement, one that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity. We of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are part of a broader movement for social justice and freedom."

"The heart of our work is a federation of over 30 statewide organizations, representing the fact that the center or gravity has shifted from Washington, DC—in fact it was never here—to the states." She pointed to New Hampshire and Maine as the latest states to enact legal protection for lesbians and gays. "Now 25 percent of the people living in this country are covered by such laws."

Senator Ted Kennedy threw out the names of Jesse Helms and the Christian Coalition to rouse the crowd. Many of his words when reduced to paper seem shallow, but his booming voice energized the room as he delivered them.

His role was to introduce the main recipient of the evening's awards. "Tonight we honor a person that carries forward her husband's dream that injustice anywhere threatens justice anywhere. Who understands completely that you cannot separate discrimination. When discrimination is there in any form and in any shape, it must be rooted out."

Coretta Scott King was brilliant in a magenta jacket and noble in accepting her award from

the Task Force. "It's hard to believe that in 1997, I still get criticism for speaking out against discrimination and bigotry towards people because of their sexual orientation. ... All I can do is tell these folks that the civil rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion."

"I accept this award, not only with gratitude to you for recognizing me, but also with a deep appreciation for the dedication and commitment to creating a society where all citizens can live together in justice, equality, and peace."

"I accept this award as a reaffirmation of my commitment to carry forward the unfinished work of my husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. My husband understood that all forms of discrimination and persecution were unjust and unacceptable for a great democracy. He believed that none of us could be free until all of us were free. That a person of conscience had no alternative but to defend the human rights of all people."

Kennedy and King departed, and the crowd grew restless waiting for the Vice President, en route to the event. Then Lobel stepped back to the microphone. "As you know, the Task Force has not always agreed with everything the administration does. But I can say with all candor and sincerity that we deeply appreciate the willingness that Vice President Gore has shown to hearing our concerns."

Gore was effective in warming up an audience liberally seeded with gay and lesbian members of the administration. "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

He said, "It is not enough for you to have a seat at the table. Everybody has got to realize that

as full members of the American family, it's your table, too."

"President Clinton and I are very strongly committed to doing what we can" on a laundry list of issue areas that was short on specifics. Concluding that section of his remarks, he noted that "gay and lesbian issues always have a place on our agenda at the state, local, and community levels, which is the specialty of the Task Force, and of course also at the national level."

Gore seemed to lower future expectations of administration action when he said, "Let's face it, some of the greatest challenges that we face are not challenges of law but challenges of the heart. We've got to reach the day when all people understand that our diversity is our greatest strength. And everyone must be judged on the content of his or her character."

Other honorees that evening were the Mautner Project for lesbians with cancer, and John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO. ▼



Illustrious ally: Coretta Scott King (right) with NGLTF's Kerry Lobel.

Young Men's HIV Study

An HIV prevention study funded by the National Institutes for Health (NIH) is recruiting 100 gay men between the ages of 18 and 25 living in the Bay Area to complete a questionnaire and a test. Participation in the study will require approximately 1 hour. Participants will be paid \$35.

If interested, please call 1-800-577-6675 for an appointment. The study can be conducted anywhere in the Bay Area.

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AIDS rising among U.S. women

UPI Science News

Federal health officials report that the number of women with AIDS has risen more than 60 percent in the United States since 1991.

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta released their analysis today of the female AIDS epidemic.

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, health officials report that the greatest increases this decade have been among Southern women. The female epidemic started among the injection drug users in the Northeast but swept through the South between 1991 and 1995.

The CDC also notes a greater surge in women infected through unsafe sex than in women infected through injection drugs.

First author of the report, Dr. Pascale Wortley, says she is not

sure why transmission by unsafe sex is overtaking unsafe drugs. But she points out that getting drug users to practice safe injection may be easier than getting anyone to practice consistent safe sex.

The study authors highlight research showing young women are less likely to stay safe during sex when partners are older instead of the same age.

Wortley notes that AIDS has been spreading faster among women than men for several years. While cases soared in women between 1991 and 1995, AIDS increased among men by only 13 percent.

Wortley acknowledges that fewer women than men have the disease. Thus a small increase among women makes a big difference in rates. But she points out that, by 1995, women made up 20 percent of U.S. AIDS patients.

A women's take-home message from the study, says Wortley, is: "Prevention is critical." ▼

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Rehabilitating thalidomide

by Bob Roehr

Thalidomide was the third largest selling drug in Europe in 1960. It was originally considered so safe it was sold over-the-counter as a sleeping pill and to combat morning sickness in pregnant women — except in America. And then the drug's pattern of side effects became terribly apparent: thalidomide stunted the growth of limbs in developing fetuses. An estimated 12,000 babies were born with flipper-like arms and legs, and they often died young.

This was the shining hour of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The agency had found the safety data insufficient and had held up approval of the drug, despite pressure to do so, thus minimizing a similar tragedy in this country. Thalidomide became the guiding paradigm for drug regulation. The FDA soon gained additional regulatory authority from Congress, not just to certify safety of a drug but to attest to its effectiveness as well.

The pendulum began to swing back in the 1980s, with a conservative push for deregulation and looser government authority, coupled with a consumer movement for patient empowerment on choices of drug therapies. AIDS activism was the cutting edge of this faction.

So it is prophetic and perhaps not coincidental that thalidomide has come back into the spotlight at the very same time Congress is considering legislation to "re-

form" the FDA.

On September 5, an FDA advisory panel recommended approval of thalidomide for use in combating leprosy. The agency is likely to follow that recommendation. Informed consent will be strictly regulated. Only about 200 Americans a year are diagnosed with leprosy, many with only mild cases that can be treated with other medications. But once a drug is given label approval for one use, "off-label" use for other purposes often becomes widespread. Off-label use is not illegal, but many third party payers will only cover charges for the uses indicated on the label.

Benefits and risks

Thalidomide is being studied as a potential therapy for at least 30 medical conditions, from AIDS to cancers to rarer diseases. Off-label use of the drug is likely to grow as this research progresses. That was part of the reason why the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and the FDA joined together to sponsor a public scientific workshop on thalidomide. It took place September 9-10 on the NIH campus outside of Washington.

"We're here to exchange ideas," said organizer Stephen C. Groft, Director of the Office of Rare Diseases. "As with all drugs, we have to make a benefit/risk decision."

But what participants found were primarily unanswered questions. The FDA's Carol Braun Trapnell, MD pointed out that 40 years after the drug was first synthesized, we know that it is quick-



Nancy Paller

ly metabolized within the body into a number of other compounds — but we do not know which of these are the active components, nor do we know the method by which they achieve their varied effects. We don't even have a good animal model to assess toxicity.

Passion filled testimony of those in support and opposition to thalidomide. Nancy Paller spoke of her son with AIDS, whose health was restored with the drug first obtained illicitly and then through an FDA compassionate use program. "He was able to live the last year and a half of his life with a quality that the others [drugs] could not provide," she said. "My wish is that thalidomide be available to others, so

that they, too, may benefit."

Randolph Warren represented "thalidomiders," himself a victim of those birth defects. Their preference is to see the drug banned, but he seemed resigned to approval. He cautioned, "It must never be a drug of choice, but only of last resort."

AIDS-specific uses

Some of the most advanced research with thalidomide is with AIDS-related problems, although that data often is limited and preliminary. The study ACTG-251 examined its use in treating severe mouth and throat ulcers in advanced-stage patients. 90 percent of patients showed full or partial healing at the end of four weeks of therapy, a result so dramatic that the placebo control arm of the study was discontinued.

But researchers are unable to explain how the drug accomplishes this. They are approaching longterm use for prophylaxis with great caution because of the potential side effects.

Thalidomide is effective in combating AIDS wasting and results in an increase in lean body mass, not just fat. Yet anomalies abound. The effect does not seem to be dose-related. At the same time, it seems to induce a slight bump in viral load, perhaps by stimulating t-cell production.

It is effective in treating tuberculosis, presumably by decreasing or modulating levels of the inflammatory cytokine tumor necrosis factor alpha. But it appears to have a contrary effect on people infected with HIV, in

whom it increases that same cytokine.

Then there is peripheral neuropathy, a nerve condition of the extremities. It is a common side effect of thalidomide and several other HIV therapies. Researchers wondered if combining those drugs would be additive, and if neuropathy would appear more frequently and/or more severely. Astonishingly enough, it did not appear at all among the HIV trial groups, and researchers are at a loss to explain why.

Liability

The pharmaceutical companies behind thalidomide clearly see a larger market for their product than the initial approval for leprosy. They have constructed an elaborate program of education, informed consent, and registry to limit misuse and their liability. This can only be justified with a greater market in mind.

James Allen, speaking for the American Medical Association, said "the freedom to use for off-label use ... should not be abridged," because "it is highly likely that medical knowledge will run ahead of the regulatory process."

But as attorney Frank C. Woodside warned, "Off-label use is judged experimental. It is at the peril of whoever prescribes it." The liability of the physician becomes "large." And that fact, as much as the uncertainty of science and the graphic history of thalidomide, is likely to restrain use of thalidomide until more questions are answered. ▼

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Study Requirements:

- T-Cells 200 or greater
- 14 outpatient visits
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- No antiretrovirals allowed 2 weeks prior to study entry and during study.

Participants are paid \$1,000 for this 8 week study

For more info. call Anna Smith at (415) 476-9296 ext. 313 or Jenny Sitrin at ext. 311

DuPont unveils new drug 'Sustiva' with expanded access

PRNewswire

The DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company this week announced auspicious 48-week data from a Phase II study of its anti-HIV drug Sustiva (also called DMP266 and efavirenz). The findings were presented Tuesday, September 16 at the Infectious Diseases Society of America 35th Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

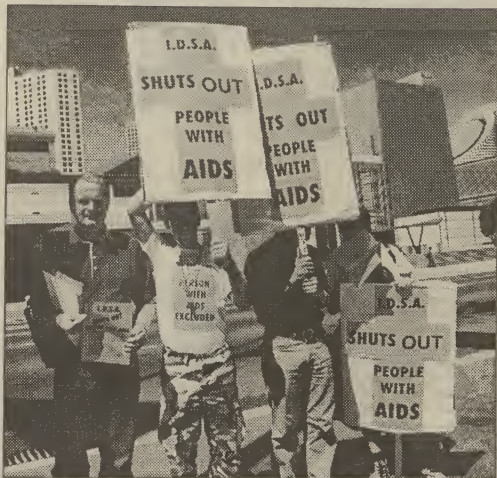
When Sustiva was used in combination with the protease inhibitor indinavir in the ongoing study, 88 percent of patients achieved undetectable viral load levels, and their T-cell counts rose an average of 240 cells. And, unlike most HIV drugs, patients were only given the drug once a day.

DuPont Merck also announced an expanded access program that will enable patients with limited therapeutic options to gain access to Sustiva, based on conversations with representatives of national AIDS patient advocacy organizations.

"The HIV and AIDS community encouraged us to accelerate our plans for an expanded access program and we listened," said Paul Howes, president and CEO of DuPont Merck. "We are fortunate to have a promising new treatment, and we want to do what is right for patients by making it available to those who need it."

In the first three months of the program, while drug supply is limited, Sustiva will be available to people who have advanced disease with CD4 cell counts of 50 or less and who are failing therapy or are intolerant to their current treatment regimen. As the program enrolls, and drug supply becomes increasingly available, the criteria for inclusion will expand as appropriate to further meet the need.

In the program, Sustiva must



ACT UP/Golden Gate members protest I.D.S.A. policies outside the Moscone Center Sept. 13 as DuPont announces its new drug. Unlike Sustiva, the conference had no expanded access for people with HIV.

be used in combination with at least one other commercial or investigational antiretroviral to which a patient has not been previously exposed. "A cardinal rule of treatment requires the addition of at least two new agents when changing therapy to protect against developing resistance and to increase the long-term positive effects of the treatment," said Michael S. Saag, MD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the AIDS outpatient clinic at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

Patients in the Phase II trial, who had CD4 cell counts of 100-500 and viral loads of more than 20,000, generally tolerated Sustiva well. There was no apparent increase in side effects for treatments containing Sustiva over using indinavir alone (two patients in the indinavir arm of the study and three patients in the Sustiva plus indinavir combination arm of the study discontinued

due to other adverse clinical events). The reported side effects from the combination included rash, headache, diarrhea, dizziness, sinusitis, influenza-like symptoms, and nausea. ▼

Physicians and patients should call 1-800-998-6854 to obtain further information on Sustiva and materials for investigator registration and patient enrollment.

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1508 Church Street, San Francisco
(between 27th & Duncan)

CDC director nominated to diminished surgeon general post

by Bob Roehr

Dr. David Satcher was nominated on September 12 to be both assistant secretary of health and surgeon general. He is currently director of the Centers for Disease Control. The nomination had been pending since spring.

This is the first time in two decades the positions have been combined. Many consider it a downgrading of the surgeon general's "bully pulpit" on public health. That post has been vacant since December 1994, when President Clinton in effect fired Joycelyn Elders for speaking candidly on HIV prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control is generally considered a bureaucratic morass, a condition that preceded Satcher's tenure. However, critics see little evidence of success in reforming the laggard agency. Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, believes Satcher "will make a good surgeon general. It's a different kind of a job."

The CDC released statistics on September 11 that showed Americans lived longer in 1996. A contributing factor was a 26 percent decline in deaths from AIDS. Among Americans aged 25 to 44, the plague dropped out of the number one position to fall just behind accidents and ahead of cancer as a cause of death. ▼

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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Ki Beard

August 31, 1997

Ki Beard passed away in Gresham, Ore., on August 31, the day before his 65th birthday, from complications of a stroke. A master bookbinder, he retired from George Lithograph following 30 years of service. He was a member of the Graphic Arts Union and resided in San Francisco's Buena Vista area. He served with honors in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

Ki Beard is survived by two sons, three sisters and two brothers residing in Illinois. At his request, there will be no services. Private interment will be in Mt. Morris, Ill. Memorials are requested to the San Francisco SPCA, 2500 16th Street, SF, CA 94103.

Edward O. Cathcart
1958 – 1997

"Eddie" left us this year after a long

and painful struggle with AIDS. He is survived by his sister and parents. A generous, compassionate and gentle man, Ed had a special place in his heart for the homeless HIV community. A memorial dinner will be held at St. Paulus Church to celebrate his life.

Good-bye, Eddie. The world will be a sadder place without you.

Philip A. Fowler

April 25, 1951 – June 25, 1997



Philip unexpectedly passed from this life in his sleep. Phil loved life, his friends and his music. His family and friends will miss him dearly.

A memorial will be held Saturday, September 20, at MCC, 150 Eureka Street at 11 a.m.

Dennis J. McCauley

Dec. 5, 1952 – Sept. 11, 1997



Dennis passed away in the arms of his partner, Lloyd, on Thursday afternoon, September 11. From old Polk Street, the Beaux Arts Ball and Deco Fair to South of Market – he was a joy to know. His kind and gentle spirit will be missed.

As his partner I was lucky enough to share seven years of his wonderful life. He will always be remembered and cherished.

Edgar "Ed" Spece
August 15, 1997

Edgar "Ed" Spece passed away August 15 at his home in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was 71 years old.



Ed came to San Francisco in the 1950s and was employed by the Red Cross for a number of years. For over 25 years, he was the manager of the Club Dori at 427 Presidio Avenue.

During those years

he did all the promotion and decorating for many, many events, especially the elaborate Halloween celebrations the Club Dori was noted for. Many people will recall in the 1960s another inspiration of Ed's: "Monday Night All You Can Eat Free Spaghetti"! What a concept!

Ed retired in 1986, selling his home in San Francisco and moving to St. Petersburg to be with his family. He is survived by several nieces and nephews and many friends and acquaintances.

D. Lowell Sullivan

August 4, 1997



D. Lowell Sullivan peacefully passed on the morning of August 4. He had fought long and hard with AIDS and hepatic cirrhosis of the liver. His heart knew no bounds; he is loved by all

who met him.

D. Lowell Sullivan is survived by his lover of nine years, Stanley; his two children, Jared and Jessica; and their faithful cocker spaniel, Barney. He obtained a B.A. in history from Washington and Lee University. He loved to bowl, write poetry, watch CNN, and experience life with his lover.

A memorial will be held Saturday, September 20, at 11 a.m. at the MCC, 150 Eureka Street. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Liver Foundation are requested.

Project Inform, Jim Hormel honor each other

by Dennis Conkin

Philanthropist and gay community leader Jim Hormel was honored at a champagne and canapé Project Inform donor's reception at Cartier jewelers on Post Street last Friday, September 12.

Hormel was honored for making a challenge match for the non-profit group's annual "Partners In Hope" fundraising effort. He will make a dollar contribution for every two dollars the program is able to raise in donations from others.

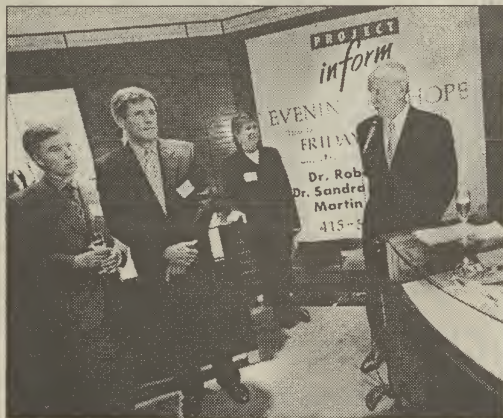
Project Inform (PI) is a 12-year-old national non-profit group providing up-to-date treatment information and advocacy for people living with AIDS, most notably through its telephone hotline. With an estimated annual budget of \$1.25 million, the organization hopes to raise \$160,000 through the Partners In Hope fundraising effort.

"There are a number of things we know about HIV and AIDS," Hormel told the gathering of PI supporters, "but the most important thing we do not know is how to end this pandemic."

Also fêted at the reception was Dawn Averitt, director of the group's Project WISE (Women's Information Service and Exchange), who received a surprise commendation from California Assemblywoman Carole Migden.

In her brief remarks, Averitt shared with the rapt audience her 1988 experience as a 19-year-old woman diagnosed with HIV in Stone Mountain, Georgia, trying to cope with HIV infection.

Averitt later went on to found WISE, initially an Atlanta-based



Jim Hormel speaks at Cartier's Sept. 12: "The most important thing we do not know is how to end this pandemic."

HIV and AIDS information and advocacy group, which merged with PI earlier this year.

Averitt pointed out that women are the "fastest-growing group" of people with HIV in the world, and underscored the need for treatment information, access, and advocacy for women with HIV/AIDS.

"We have a long way to go," she said.

Mayor Willie Brown also made a brief appearance at the reception. In his remarks to the crowd, Brown talked of the "incredible work" of Project Inform, and thanked supporters for their financial contributions to the agency.

In addition to information given on its hotline, PI also provides useful written informational tools, such as fact sheets on

treatments like protease inhibitors, and charts on opportunistic infections, medication side effects, and drug interactions for people with HIV/AIDS. PI also has a variety of publications and discussion papers including *WISE Words*, a women's HIV and AIDS information and issues newsletter, and the *PI Perspective*, a tri-yearly journal that provides current information on antiviral therapies, opportunistic infection treatments, new diagnosis tools, social and economic trends in treating HIV disease and AIDS, and other important material. ▼

For information, contact PI's hotline at 558-9051 or 800-822-7422. The address for the PI website is <http://www.projinf.org>

HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

You are newly infected with HIV: To treat or not to treat?

by Don Howard, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

You've gotten tested for HIV regularly — this time will probably be no different. But, the counselor looks down the list of code numbers, looks at you and says, "You've tested positive."

After the shock subsides, you realize that you are one of the 600 to 1,000 people estimated to be newly infected with HIV each year in San Francisco. What do you do next? You've heard there are new powerful anti-HIV drugs. Your doctor says that you could take a combination of three drugs (10 to 14 pills a day) and that your virus might become undetectable.

But drugs are for people who are sick. You're not feel sick.

Will the pills make you sick? You've heard that the drugs are toxic. And what if you take drugs now and they stop working? What will you do later if you get sick and you don't have any options left? You need to make a decision to treat or not to treat, but you don't have enough information. Unfortunately, neither does your doctor. Welcome to the bleeding edge of HIV treatment.

A study at San Francisco General, called the Options Project, has been examining the effects of aggressive anti-HIV treatment in people who begin treatment within six months of becoming infected. Emerging results from the project, recently shared by one of the project's investigators, Dr. Rick Hecht, might help you make a decision about your treatment.

To determine that people who newly test positive are actually in the first six months of HIV infection, the Options study relies on either a documented negative HIV antibody test within the last six months or evidence of detectable HIV using the new sensitive viral load test in people who still test HIV negative on the older antibody tests but are experiencing symptoms of recent HIV infection (flu-like symptoms, fever, swollen lymph nodes, upper body rash).

The San Francisco General study has screened 167 people to date and identified 36 people who are documentably in the first six months of HIV infection. Of those 36, 14 people were identified very early in infection — after virus can be detected in their blood but before they test positive on the traditional HIV antibody test.

The study is currently following 28 people who have decided to take a powerful combination of three drugs — a protease inhibitor and two nucleoside analogues. (Three patients have chosen not to take drugs, and five have either moved or been lost to follow-up.) The early findings:

- Within eight weeks of starting treatment, all of the 28 patients on drugs have seen their virus fall to undetectable levels (below 500 copies of HIV RNA per ml of blood).

- None of the 28 patients who started treatment in the first six

months of infection has had their virus return to detectable levels (the longest patient has been treated for 14 months).

- With monthly testing, three patients have each had one measurement rise above 500 copies (but below 1,000 copies). However, a follow-up test in each case showed the virus was again below the levels of detection. The investigators suspect that the initial tests were in error, that patients missed drug doses, or that these were bursts of virus that were then controlled by the drugs.

- For comparison, patients at San Francisco General's Ward 86, many of whom have lived with HIV for a longer time and have been treated with single drugs as they were introduced, are having less success. A recent review of the results

of patients on Ward 86 showed that 35% to 40% of these patients have not been able to achieve undetectable levels of HIV with similar drug combinations. (However, for those patients getting to undetectable in three to six months, few are seeing their virus return to detectable levels.)

- All of the Options patients eventually tested positive on an HIV antibody test. But, interestingly, over time the amount of antibodies detected has started to decline in several of the Options patients. To date, no one has reverted to being antibody negative.

Newly infected patients must therefore weigh for themselves the risks of starting treatment immediately against the risks of waiting.

- Many of the patients have experienced side effects from the drugs. One person has had to change his drug combination, and two people have had to reduce the doses of drugs they are taking as a result of difficulties or side-effects probably caused by the drugs.

- According to Dr. Hecht, those who have elected not to start treatment (only three), but who are still being followed by the Options investigators, have "significant amounts of detectable virus." Those who have been treated have undetectable virus and are showing "trends toward higher CD4 (t-helper) cell levels" on both an absolute level and as percentage of total lymphocytes versus those that are not being treated.

- Before beginning treatment, 13 of the Options patients were tested for pre-existing (inherited) drug resistance. None showed resistance to AZT or a leading protease inhibitor, Crixivan (Indinavir). Two showed evidence of being resistant to 3TC. In practice, none of the patients failed to get to undetectable levels using a triple combination that included 3TC.

- One patient started with

three drugs and was headed toward becoming undetectable. The patient then switched to two drugs, and the level of virus began to climb again.

- Dr. Hecht estimates that the Options patients are very adherent to their drug dosing schedules and that fewer than 10% have missed a dose in any three-day period. However, Options is not a well-known study, and those people who seek it out may be, in general, more concerned about their infection and more adherent than the general population.

More questions

The Options study is expanding its focus with funding from both the NIH and the CDC. Plans are in place to study the long-term effects of intervening with drugs early in infection. Some of the questions being tested are:

- Should the body's immune system be stimulated in early infection to do all it can to battle the virus while, at the same time, anti-HIV drugs are used?

- Despite having undetectable replicating virus, what is the nature of the virus that remains locked in cells (referred to as proviral DNA)?

- Does the level of infectiousness in semen fall if a person's virus in blood becomes undetectable?

In summary, early evidence suggests that combination treatment during the first months of infection can bring the virus to undetectable levels in all patients

studied. Early treatment also seems to lead to improved immune function (although the data here are very thin), and the drugs are well-tolerated by patients earlier in infection. Although being infected with an already drug-resistant virus could theoretically reduce treatment efficacy, the Options cohort has seen not seen this problem.

Newly infected patients must therefore weigh for themselves the risks of starting treatment immediately (possible, but as yet undocumented long-term toxicities of the drugs and possibly reducing future treatment options) against the risks of waiting (further immune system destruction and an increased difficulty in treating the virus later in disease progression).

The Options project continues to enroll new patients who are in the first months of HIV infection. The study provides sensitive viral load tests and free drugs for those who choose treatment. If you experience symptoms of early HIV infection or if you know you have been recently infected, you can contact Options via their hotline at 415-502-8100. ▼

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Paris when he sizzles

by Jim Provenzano

Matter is only energy condensed to slow vibrations. Think about it. It's a scary thought, that our bodies are no more than atoms swirling around faster than other collections of atoms. Scientifically speaking, the electricity in our bodies, sometimes called a soul, is the only thing that separates us from coffee tables and rocks.

But what glorious matter we are.

Take Bob Paris. He's an author. Bob Paris was Mr. America. They used another term by the time he won it, but hey, he was Mister America.

Bob Paris did not get as far as he should have in bodybuilding, because it is not a fair sport. Not fair to the athletes, but also not fair to people who feel that bodybuilding has created a lookism based on body fascism that makes many people who are not muscular feel inadequate. This body fascism is furthered by the legions of photographers in the arty "boy on a rock" school of postcard crap.

As an ectomorph, that pisses me off.

But Bob Paris doesn't, for some reason. Maybe because he himself pisses people off. And pissing off authority figures in sports doesn't make you friends. Believe me. Being honest in the face of blatant corruption and stupidity usually just gets you in trouble.

Bob Paris pissed off some people for a lot of reasons. He pissed off gays for touting a marriage that got national airtime, but did not last. He pissed off people in

the bodybuilding community for daring to stand up for the rights of athletes. Yes, they are athletes. Not your cup of human growth hormone, perhaps, but athletes.

Bob Paris pissed off a lot of guys who like to admire his body when he posed nude in two books with his then-husband, Rod Jackson, but didn't show us his cock. For those still craving satisfaction, I suggest Photo-shop.

Bob Paris pissed off bodybuilding übermeister Joe Weider and his minions by being the first openly gay competitive bodybuilder on the planet, and by speaking openly about it.

Bob Paris always looked better than any of the freaks that win awards in the bizarre world of techno-drugs and über-masochism and really weird shit. Flesh. Layered flesh. That is the medium of this art, and Bob Paris stands accused of not using enough paint.

Bob Paris, when he was a kid, tried to blow his head off with a rifle. Fortunately, he failed. He went on, years later, to speak at schools and do what he thought he could do to talk to young kids and convince them not to hurt themselves. That is a good thing.

Bob Paris was a pothead loser sleeping in his car, kicked out of his Illinois home by a pair of the louisiest parents a kid could have.

But Bob Paris survived, and became our Apollo, and we know what happens to Apollo. While being a hero, he also suffers. Fortunately this time around, his girlfriends didn't turn into trees, and

his boyfriend didn't get bonked in the head with a discus.

Bob Paris's new book is called *Gorilla Suit*. If you are interested in his life, and an inside look at competitive bodybuilding, read it. He doesn't include everything we'd like to know about his life — his other love interests, why and how he broke up with Rod Jackson — but he does talk about his

use of drugs and the evasive way in which, as a gay athlete, he was shut out of a profitable industry. Like the trained bodybuilder he is, Paris is good at isolating parts for his own aesthetic purposes.

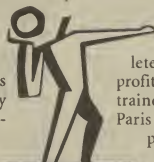
Paris will read from his book and sign copies this Monday, September 22 at 12:30 p.m. at Alexander Book Company, located at 50 Second Street, in San Francisco.

Jim Provenzano: How's the reaction been about exposing the problems of the bodybuilding world?

Bob Paris: The response that I've gotten from the bodybuilding world so far has been good. I didn't think that I did anything all that courageous, just that it needed to be talked about, and that the sport's been going through some very difficult times for quite a while, and that the issues that I raised needed to be talked about.

Have other people been so specific in their complaints, specifically referring to Joe Weider's "megalomania?"

I don't think so. You know the



Sports Complex



Bob Paris

sport is in an odd position of being completely controlled by such a small group of people, that I think people who still want to be involved in the sport are scared to say anything. What happens is that the whole issue snowballs. People who are in charge assume that since no one challenged them, their power is unchallenged. The old concept that the more power is entrenched fewer hands, the deeper that entrenchment becomes.

Bodybuilding for me beyond the actual story is sort of a metaphor of how too much power in too few hands becomes a very corrupting factor.

You compared it to the old film studio system. Have you seen, since your experience, that other athletes have taken a stance, in negotiating contracts?

With contracts, I just don't think there's that much choice for a lot of athletes. Having not been involved — the last time I competed was over five years ago — I do know that the drug situation has grown worse. The IFBB (International Federation of Bodybuilders) turned their back on the drug testing that they promised the athletes, which I pushed for very hard for a number of years. But the publicity goes to those who play along. Anyone who raises contrary opinion has, for all intents and purposes, disappeared.

You have many incidents where you've had to tell people off. It seems like you knew it might hurt you in the long run.

My life seems to be — I didn't set out that way — but it seems to be, in so many ways, a demonstration against injustice. I have such a hard time keeping my mouth shut when I see things that are so blatant. I feel badly for the guys who don't feel that they can speak up, who give away the rights to their image. They're just forced to accept that promoters make a bunch of money while they're barely paying their bills. It's not in my nature to sit back and let those things happen. I've never been one who sort of said, "Well, I'm gonna cut back on my own ability to make money if I open my mouth. I have it better than most, so I should just keep my mouth shut."

Does being the only openly gay world-class bodybuilder carry a burden of being a sort of representative?

Absolutely. That splinters off in so many directions. In that sport, the whole concept of the Powers-That-Be want badly to overcome the myth that all bodybuilders are

gay, presuming that's a negative thing, on their part. Then you have one of the top faces in the sport evolve into an activist, and they don't know what to do with that. Especially in a sport where judging is involved, they can just pick someone else.

My whole take is that the whole concept was so subtle and blatant at the same time. A lot of people figured I would just get frustrated and go off to do something else, because I have so many other interests.

Which you do.

A lot of my, I guess, grieving process in that sport was so attached to my growing-up process and growing into a man, there was a grieving that had to take place when it didn't turn out to be this whole clean deal.

You're known as being a Renaissance man, known for your aesthetic form and style. What's happening to the sport with the goals of "freak" proportions?

I think that's a strong element that plays into this.

I used my body. It was the perfect place to blend the athletic side of my self and the artistic side. It was the ideal I always chased. When the sport was dominated by so few people it began to reflect and mirror their ideals.

A lot of people in charge of the sport are frustrated bodybuilders. They're guys who came up in working-class situations. So did I. But their ideals are these massive freaky bodies. They've been able to influence the sport in that direction, so all the artistry has died. Even people nowadays who are called artists used to be freaks.

With the current problems, do you see any progress in making it an Olympic sport?

The sport very nearly has to crash and burn first, and then rebuild. It's coming down to entrenchment of power. The place where the sport is right now, there are some very poor decisions. But the thing that has prevented bodybuilding — which is in its own world, a large sport — from becoming an Olympic sport, for many years, has been the shift to much more radical drug use in the last few years. When the IFBB made a very calculated decision to do away with drug testing, after it was promised, it made a huge mistake, one that could have potentially damaged the ability of the sport to ever enter the Olympics.

It takes on a strange science fiction quality. You mentioned some guys who risk their lives with these drugs.

It's a question that's pertinent in all sports as we develop more scientific breakthroughs. The whole field of what used to be Sports Medicine is having more outlets in the world at large.

Adults having tremendous benefits from Human Growth Hormone, people with HIV using anabolic steroids as part of their drug cocktails. You have positive and negatives on each side of the argument. But my line has always been, in sports we need to find a way back to the purity of that sport.

In thinking about a comeback, how do I go from being Joe Citizen, beating my head against the wall if I don't do the drugs, or breaking the law if I do the drugs? It became very complicated. As it

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exists right now, the sport says to its athletes in a very subtle way, "Break the law, or don't do well." Those in charge of sports will vehemently deny it and say that's how the athletes want it. They can't claim to be the leaders of the sport and then shirk their responsibility at the same time.

Gay Games officials said they will release a list of banned drugs for competition in physique and power-lifting. How do you see this being applied, what with some athletes having HIV and needing these drugs?

That is such a difficult question, and one that has so many layers to it. Does a person's health come before the considerations of sport? I have not thought about that.

Have you thought about going? Have you been invited as a judge or exhibition athlete?

I haven't been approached. If I could fit it into my schedule, it would be great.

Yes, it's going to be a very exciting event. Can you talk about what you're seeing in gay and lesbian athletics, groups expanding all over. I've been writing about gay sports for a while now, and it's just so amazing to see adults reclaiming their bodies, sort of the Ugly Duckling syndrome.

That's absolutely correct. I think for a lot of us, we closed out possibility because of that queer element in our early lives and in the myth we grew up with that said, "You can't do this, you can't do that," whatever the limitations were. So many of us grew up with ideas of limitations. For a lot of us those ideas of limitations were expressed in athletics. People discovering their athleticism later in life is a wonderful thing, especially if they feel that outlet was denied to them. The success of the Games has been tremendous.

Total aside: there's a new movie coming up. Nicholas Cage is starring in a "dark" version of *Superman*. The first idea I thought was, why wasn't Bob Paris asked, because he's the only guy who really looks the part.

I hadn't thought of that.

I mean, Nicholas Cage as Superman? Somewhere on the Internet there are pictures of you posing that some guy used Photoshop to paint a Superman uniform on you. It's very flattering!

(Laughing) They seem to be colors that I wear well. My interest in acting hadn't shifted. I haven't taken a traditional route in anything in my life. It seems that wouldn't be traditional either. My route in bodybuilding hasn't been traditional. It would be very interesting to play out the sort of subtle context of the superhero from a gay perspective.

What was the process of writing the book? Did you focus on bodybuilding from the beginning?

As far as the process of the book, I've been writing since I was a kid. It was a back door into publishing, having already written 3 fitness experiences. My one experience with co-authoring a book [*Straight to the Heart*] was what it was, but I also had always known that I would write and that would be a part of my career. I'd written a lot, just for myself. Michael Denney pretty much let me have free reign with the structure, the stories, the style. I pretty much turned in a clean manuscript. This was pretty much my work. He was very helpful in a lot of directions. The approach I took was as if I were writing a novel, as if I

were outside the story and playing a character.

The structure has two time lines. How did that come about?

In the beginning it was even more experimental. There were even more leaps in time. I got very into the projects that I'm doing. Then I started having dreams, and it just sort of fell into two linear lines. It ended up being too taxing for a reader. It was something I'll experiment with in another work.

It has a very cinematic edge to it. A *Gorilla Suit* film? I really can't think of any actors who could get as muscular as you, though.

It's been approached, but I'm not sure yet how I feel about it. I'm in a process right now of re-inventing my life. I'm not sure how much I wanna tread back over that old ground.

Especially when early reviews came out, there was some interest.

I'm trying to figure out the course of where my life is headed right now. I would want to have a very strong hand. I wouldn't just hand it over.

The ending, you use the idea of a mountain, climbing the wrong one, perhaps, but still achieving.

Exactly. What I'm hoping is that people will see it's not just a bodybuilding story. The entire concept of climbing to the top of something and then perhaps discovering that you climbed to the top of the wrong mountain. The efforts are the same.

You've been involved in a public career for well over a decade, sometimes literally naked. How do you combine these aspects of being so public with your own life?

I'm coming out of a period of having lived on a very remote island for almost three years now. It's interesting. I don't know where I'm headed with it. It's a strange thing to be so incredibly private, but at the same time have your life be very much in the public eye in a lot of ways. It's a very elastic love/hate dynamic. I take responsibility for choosing careers like that, but that plays into how I approach whatever I do in the future.

Do you have another book?

I have a book coming out next June with Warner. They're short essays with the 20 most pertinent gay rights questions I've been asked over the years. It's called *Generation Queer*.

People might look at you and not even expect you to use that word! Isn't that funny?

I find that rather ironic, actually, that I've lived my life kind of in a radical way, but a lot of people have this picture of me as a staid conservative guy.

You're really ripping up parts of the culture, particularly your tours of schools, talking to young adults. That seems that's part of being a public figure. You've found something to work for.

It gets difficult sometimes. You know, Mark Twain said, "Never pick a fight with someone who buys ink by the barrel." It's difficult to have things you've done be misunderstood. The sense I get sometimes is that there was sort of a demarcation point of coming out in the media. Before that in my sport I was seen as the Renaissance man who just happened to be a world champion, an artist. After coming out in the media, I was seen as this dumb piece of meat who could do nothing else. It gets a little frustrating. ▼

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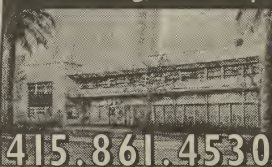
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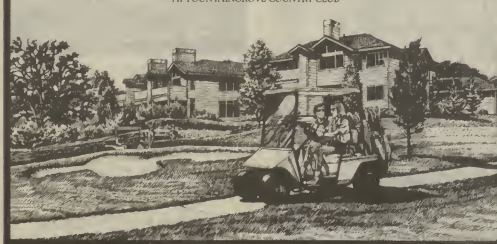
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"Death in Venice is an invitation to be yourself," says Italian baritone Alfonso Antoniozzi about Britten's opera.
page 43

Paramount's new gay flick 'In & Out' is mostly old tired shtick.
page 45



Rhino opens its season with side-splittingly funny 'Route 80.'
page 42



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 38 • 18 September 1997

Soap suds and salsa

'Latin Boys Go to Hell'

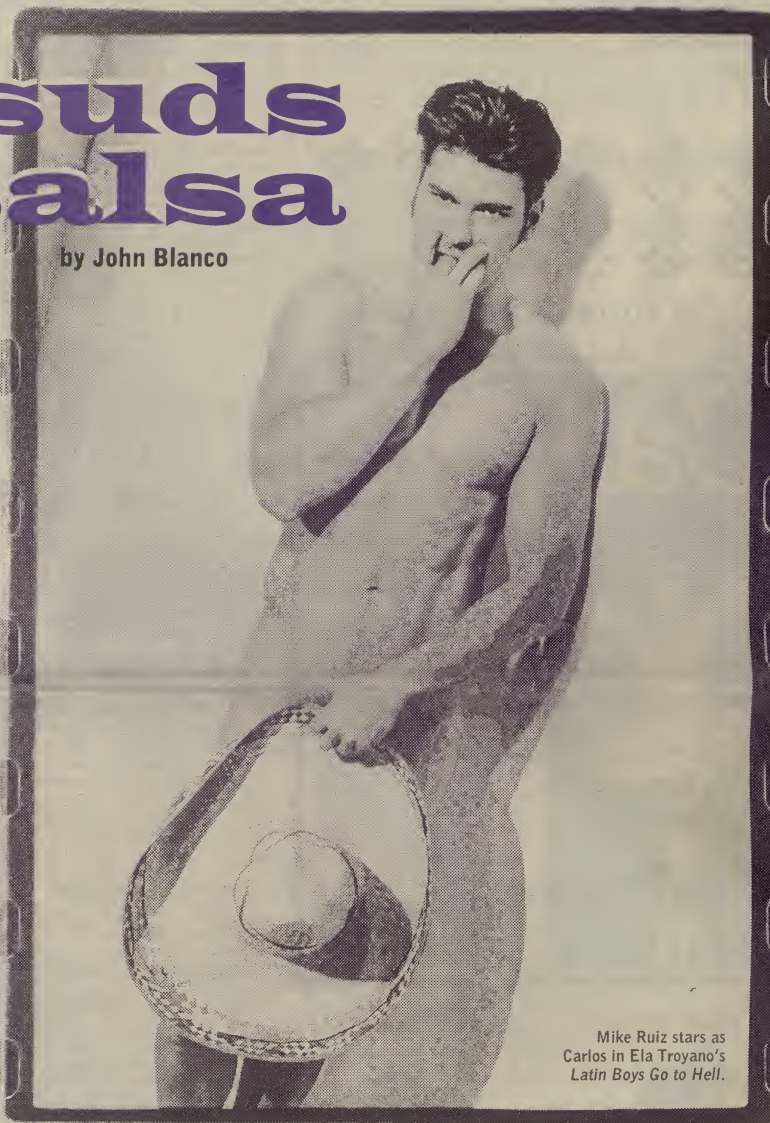
Filled with overwrought drama, juicy dialogue, and copious glycerin tears, Latin soaps, or *telenovelas*, are some of the most entertaining shows on television. While they generally have the production values of cable access programs (cheap sets, Sears couture costuming), the one thing they don't skimp on is histrionics. When compared to their American counterparts, everything seems heightened on Latin soaps — the drama, the emotions, the hair. Even the titles of *telenovelas* — *Alguna Vez Tendremos Alas* (Some-day We'll Have Wings) and *Los Hijos De Nadie* (Nobody's Children) — are more colorful than those of American daytime dramas.

With *Latin Boys Go to Hell*, writer/director Ela Troyano aims to both parody and pay homage to *telenovelas*. The problem is, as parody, the film isn't sharp or funny enough, and, as melodrama, it's only occasionally engaging. In place of humor or real drama, Troyano and co-screenwriter Andre Salas give us cheap thrills — scenes of softcore sex or campy gore, even a combination of the two in one gruesome sequence involving a dick hacking. Troyano may claim her sensibility is steeped in theatrical Latin drama, but this film proves she has more in common with shock-happy, post-Tarantino indie filmmakers.

The film's set-up is right out of those hokey "confessionals" found in porn rags, the "I'm in lust with my hunky brother" school of smut. In *Latin Boys Go to Hell*, it's a hunky cousin that has the movie's protagonist, shy 20-year-old Justin Vega (Irwin Ossa), in need of cold showers. The film begins with

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by John Blanco



Mike Ruiz stars as Carlos in Ela Troyano's *Latin Boys Go to Hell*.

Paula Court



Stephen Pelton presents *America Songbook* at Theater Artaud.

Marty Soti

Pelton does America

by Heather Wisner

Stephen Pelton Dance Company

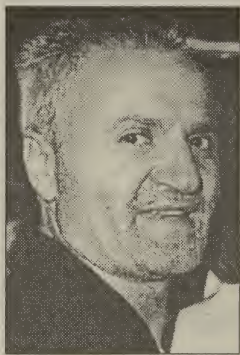
The eight dancers rehearsing for Stephen Pelton's new piece *America Songbook* are dancing all over the piano, or rather, all over the tape marks stuck to the Theater Artaud stage where the piano will go when Steve Basili accompanies the first act live. "The piano's going here?" asks one dancer in dismay during a five-minute break. The others nod: It's something they'll have to keep in mind for the rest of the rehearsal.

The piano isn't the only obstacle Pelton and his company have had to dance around in putting together this evening-length work. Pelton lost three dancers to injury in the last month, and for several weeks he's been coaching replacements — ODC dancers Private Freeman, Kevin Ware, and Heather Tietfort — through choreography that he and most of the others have been working on for two years.

Pelton and his collaborator, Philadelphia-based composer Robert Maggio, have also straddled a stylistic line with *America Songbook*, which evokes periods of American history by reshaping its early popular dances and music. Inspired by the use of blues and

page 54 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



Gianni Versace

by Chris Culwell and
Pithy Galore

A few weeks back we cynically mused in print about who would play the role of dead fashion legend Gianni Versace in the inevitable TV movie about the Cunanan/Versace killing. Well, once again our crass inpropriety has proven a reliable barometer of American tastes and cultural habits. According to UPI, Italian actor **Franco Nero** will play the Italian designer in a film that has just gone into production in South Beach, Florida. **Menahe Golan** will direct the \$5 million flick, which will also star stage

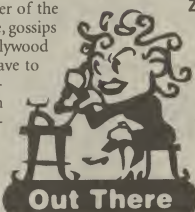
actor **Shane Perdue** as killer Cunanan, and **Stephen Bauer** as an ambitious FBI agent who will look great and doubtless provide all the essential homophobic bits. Can the **Di** story be far behind?

What is Helen hunting?

Did you hear **Helen Hunt's** acceptance speech Sunday night when she won the Emmy for Best Actress in a Comedy Series? We were all ears when the *Mad About You* star acknowledged **Ellen DeGeneres** for her courage in coming out and then thanked a "special friend who is watching at home." This was curious, given all the rumors we've heard over the years about the overalls-wearing Hunt being a member of the tribe. Oh, yes, it's true, gossips think everyone in Hollywood is queer, only you have to wonder about someone who makes warm and fuzzy public statements about people of indeterminate gender. Wasn't that DeGeneres' routine before she came out? (Remember

when the closeted Ellen kept telling the press that she was in a "committed relationship with a person") And though Hunt is married, her husband, **Hank Azaria**, is an actor best known for his portrayal of the flaming queen **Agador** in *The Birdcage*. Hmmm.

Aside from Ms. Hunt's provocative speech and DeGeneres' winning a writing Emmy for the coming-out episode, this year's show was the usual celebrity ego-feed, though it was fun watching **Bryant Gumbel** stumble over several lame jokes. We were also amused when *Cybil's* **Christine Baranski** started to get up out of her seat when the voice of the **Omnipotent Award Giver** announced that the winner of the Emmy for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series was the similarly first-named **Kirsten Johnson** of *Third Rock from the Sun*. Sorry, Christine, but the bloom was off that fetid rose a long time ago.



Curious wording in a brief item by **Steve Winn** a few weeks back in the *Chron's* fall arts preview. "Nature hadn't unleashed its full fury against homosexual men," Winn wrote, "when the pre-AIDS *Crimes Against Nature* opened in the Haight Ashbury 20 years ago." It was good of the *Chronicle* theatre critic to plug the now-famous play by the **Gay Men's Theatre Collective** in his column, but we found the subtle but unmistakably punitive tone of his item a bit disturbing. Correct us if we're wrong, but we don't think Mr. Winn, a mere ink-stained wretch, has a direct line to God, therefore it's presumptuous of him to assume anything on the part of "nature," whatever that is. But since Winn apparently has friends in high places, we'd like to know exactly what is it that nature is furious about and what precisely does it have to do with gay men?

At the right hand of God

Crimes Against Nature, by the way, describes through dance, ritual and mime the joys and anxieties gay men experienced while coming out in the '70s. The play is at the New Conservatory Theatre through October 19. Call 861-8972 for tickets and information.

More disturbing than philosopher Winn's promiscuous teleologizing is the barely concealed bigotry offered up by satirist **Tom Wolfe** in his latest short story, *Ambush at Fort Bragg*, which received a less than glowing appraisal from literary critic **Timothy Noah** in a recent issue of *U.S. News & World Report*. Wolfe's story is an unrelenting lampoon of the media, in particular network TV newsmagazines. In the story, a dizzy crew of self-centered celebrity news anchors attempts to report an ongoing case involving the murder of a gay soldier by three other servicemen, "crude rednecks" who speak a semi-cretinous dialect that suggests they are just so much uneducated white trash. Or maybe not. Noah observes that at one point in the story, when blond bimbo newscaster **Merry Kerry** confronts one of the killers, **Virgil Ziggefoos**, with his own secretly videotaped confession, he launches into a "spellbinding" tale of his rescue by the other two rednecks during a firefight in Somalia. The speech is so electrifying that the "mesmerized" newscasters forget to broadcast Ziggefoos' confession of murder.

Noah observes that everyone in *Ambush at Fort Bragg*, including Ziggefoos, is viciously caricatured, except that Mr. Z, for reasons Wolfe doesn't make clear, is given an inordinate amount of time to expound his blatantly homophobic points of view, the resulting effect being almost "an endorsement of Ziggefoos' point of view." "The problem," says Noah, "is that Wolfe seems to be saying something about homosexuals that isn't just rude; it's vicious. It throws Wolfe's novella out of whack, making the reader regret chuckling at [his] jabs at liberal pieties."

Fop in Venice

The War Memorial Opera House was knee-deep in queens last Thursday for the opening of **Benjamin Britten's** *Death in Venice*, which struck us as perhaps the longest opera ever written about a frustrated homosexual. Of course, Britten's opera, and the **Thomas Mann** novella upon which it is based, is about much more than a shriveled fruit going nuts over a boy, but you'd never know it, given the Harlequin romance-style theatrics of the SFO production and the mawkish sentimentalizing of **Kenneth Riegel**, who portrays the tortured protagonist, **Gustav von Aschenbach**. Almost everything in Thursday's presentation struck us as laughable, which is doubtless the last emotion Mann hoped to conjure with his saturnine meditation on the tragic potentialities of artistic decadence. But chuckle people did at Thursday's opening, especially during Aschenbach's big make-over in the barber shop, when, after falling under the spell of beautiful Tazio, the professor begins wearing makeup and fancy neckwear and twirling his cane

like some demented fop. At first we were annoyed by giggles issuing from a gaggle of overdressed society minxes sitting behind us, but who could blame them for finding mirth in Riegel's mindless mincing and mugging?

The laughter continued apace during **Michael Smuin's** choreography, which, all things considered, is some of the least awful we've seen from **Mr. Ersatz and Schmaltz**. Still, where skyscraping simplicity is called for, Las Vegas glitz prevails, particularly in an extended Act II reverie in which Aschenbach dreams that **Apollo** and **Dionysus** are locked in a contest for his soul. All philosophical conceits go right out the window here when a clutch of scantily clad boys lifts the young **Tazio** (**Christopher Newnam**) and swoops his nearly naked body within inches of a reclining Aschenbach's face. We wondered at the time if perhaps an earlier version of the dance didn't feature Newnam being lowered, bum first, onto the ecstatic professor's twitching nose.

Revolving tenors

A fair number of queens were also on hand Saturday for the opening of **Verdi's** *Rigoletto*, which we found considerably more rewarding than SFO's burlesque *I Left My Heart in Venice*. Unfortunately, not everyone felt the same way. In fact, we noticed several of our local critics having apoplectic seizures all over the steps of the opera house during intermission. Seems there was lots of distress about "dry tops" (we thought that was an altogether different sort of dilemma), unnecessary chair-hurling, and, outrage of outrages, "applause during Gilda's first act aria Caro Nome." There was also disagreement over the evening's tenor, **Martin Thompson**. We thought he was pretty awful, but what do we know.

Actually there's some interesting behind-the-scenes gossip behind *Rigoletto's* tenor. According to a dishy little item by *Chronicle* music critic **Joshua Kosman**, **Richard Leech** was supposed to sing the role, but he withdrew before the season opener because of a death in the family. The company then hired **Carlo Scibelli**, the modestly endowed voice heard in last summer's *Madama Butterfly*. But, oddly, while Scibelli's photo and bio appeared in the printed program for *Rigoletto*, it was Thompson who appeared in the role Saturday, not Scibelli. What happened? Kosman says SFO "cited 'family reasons' as the cause for Scibelli's withdrawal," but the critic goes on to say that "sources confirmed that shortly into the rehearsal period, soprano **Ruth Ann Swenson** threatened to pull out of the production" if Scibelli wasn't replaced with another singer. Oh my. Is it just us, or does it sometimes seem that what goes on behind-the-scenes at SFO is a lot more interesting than what happens onstage? ▼

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What a drag

It has come to the attention of local dragster **La Tragica** that SF's tranny scene is laboring under a terrible and dangerous inferiority complex. "Every time a famous New York drag queen comes to town," Tragica told us over the phone this week from her aerie at Trannyshack, "everyone gets intimidated. Instead of showing up in drag, they come in homeboy outfits, you know, baggy khakis and backward baseball caps." Tragica related that she first noticed this phenomenon when show queens **Lady Bunny** and **Mistress Formika** came to town. "I was the only person in drag," Tragica moaned. The same drag-inhibiting cloud descended upon Trannyshack last Tuesday when **Sherry Vine** did a gig at Trannyshack. "No wigs, no dresses. It was terrible," Tragica whined. "I mean come on, even Princess Grace did it with a small town." ▼

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Dish du jour

Mark Davis returns to Josie's

by Robert Julian

Mark Davis is in town this week putting polish on the Queen of Officehours and Professor Prism, two new characters he'll introduce at his Josie's opening next Wednesday. And although local fans will be treated to new material in Davis' latest stand-up engagement, they won't get to meet Ashley, the female impersonator Davis plays on NBC's *Fired-Up* (Monday/8:30 p.m.). His recurring role on the sitcom is a big career break for Davis, who moved to LA from San Francisco just over two years ago. But when he recently agreed to satisfy my insatiable curiosity about things trivial and obscure, it became clear that Davis hasn't lost his fondness for the Bay Area.

Robert Julian: What, if anything, do you miss about living in San Francisco?

Mark Davis: Tops.

What kind of car do you drive?

A Chevy Geo Metro. You are what you drive — it's smart, sensible, and kind of cute.

What was your most recent encounter with a police officer?

I was driving without my lights on, and he was a big LA Nazi. I

loved going to court. I tried to beat the rap because the officer wanted to ticket me for driving without my seat belt, which I only took off to produce my driver's license. I was going to claim entrapment, but it didn't work. I'm a terrible liar. I'd rather withhold — it's so much easier.

What's the one thing that is always in your refrigerator?

I was a little worried about how my relatives in Eastern Washington would react, but my Aunt Grace called my mom and said, "Oh, my God, he's got your legs."

Water and cranberry juice.

What's the one thing that's always in your nightstand?

Well, condoms.

In 25 words or less, how would you characterize Hollywood agents?

I only need one word: scum.

How did your mom react to your

first appearance on the sitcom *Fired-Up*?

She was glad I was finally going to be able to pay back my student loans. I was a little worried about my relatives in Eastern Washington, but my Aunt Grace called my mom and said, "Oh, my God, he's got your legs."

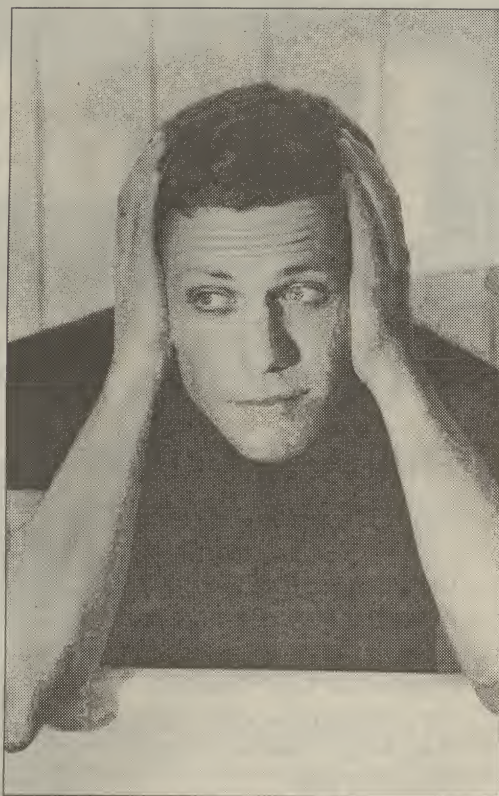
Have you encountered any casting couches in LA?

Not this time around, but I did when I was 21 and living there. The idea in LA is to let them think you're going to screw them.

Of the famous people you've gotten to know or work with, who is the nicest?

Amanda Bearse.

What's the difference between gay men in SF and gay men in



Mark Davis

LA?

Gay men in LA won't talk to you. Gay men in San Francisco will screw you and then not talk to you.

What was the best part of being an entertainer on an Atlantis cruise, surrounded by a boat full of queer men?

Being just a little bit better than everybody else. Oh, that's really mean, I can't say that.

What was the worst part about that experience?

Spreading joy every day, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, can make me cranky.

In your new show at Josie's we meet Professor Prism, who teaches Homo 101. What's the profes-

sor's secret sexual turn-on?

Saint Sebastian statues.

If someone were making a TV movie about your infamous stage mom, Mavis Davis, who would she want to play her role?

Meryl Streep — as long as she didn't touch herself all the time.

If you could pass on any advice to a young queer actor heading for Tinseltown, what would it be?

Be tenacious. ▼

Mark Davis is at Josie's, 3583 16th St., beginning Wednesday, September 24 and running through Sunday, September 28 (8 p.m.). For tickets and information, call 861-7933.

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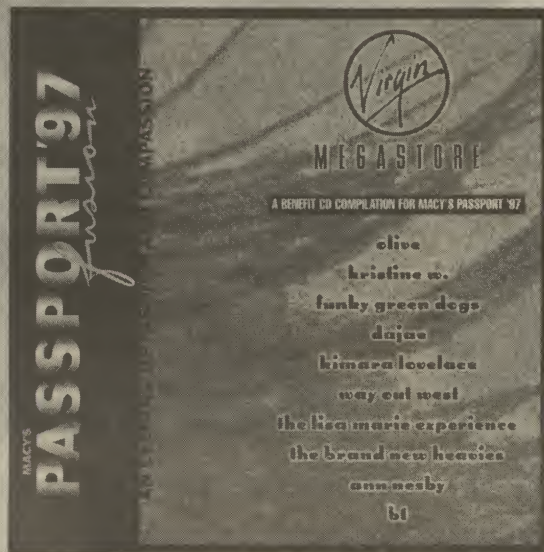
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Elaine Tse and Erin-Kate Whitcomb in *Route 80: Cars, Cows and Caffeine*.

Trip to bountiful

Rhino takes comic romp down 'Route 80'

by Heidi Beeler

Theater Rhinoceros' 20th anniversary season is off to a rollicking start with the opening last weekend of the lesbian road comedy *Route 80: Cars, Cows & Caffeine*. Written by and co-starring Erin-Kate Whitcomb (who first appeared at Rhino as *Beyond Baghdad's* terrorist debutante ringleader Titty), *Route 80* is a frequently hilarious and sometimes poignant production well worth seeing.

Directed by Amy Resnick, the play introduces an unlikely pair of travel buddies to the classic road comedy: Lisa, a San Francisco-native baby dyke, and her best friend Nick, who has just died of AIDS. Lisa (Elaine Tse) cared for Nick and his lover through their overlapping illnesses. With Nick's death and memorial service behind her, Lisa now has one last request to complete for him: she must drive his ashes home to his mother (Whitcomb) and father (perpetually outside riding the "John Deere") who live on a farm in Lake Odessa, Michigan.

Lisa, who rarely leaves San Francisco, decides to go, despite being terrified of Midwesterners. "They'll take one look at me and drag me off to a monster truck rally as a runner." Nick (the voice of Brian Thorstenson) had planned virtually every detail of this journey before his demise, and accompanying Lisa as a voice on a cassette, he provides all-important historical facts about lawn flamingos, advice on ash dispersal sites, motel suggestions, hot potty spots, road tunes, and other conversation.

At each point along the way — Reno, Rawlins, Chicago, Lake Odessa — Lisa meets up with a representative local or two and is surprised by the connection she finds with them. For Nick, the journey is a homecoming, as he brings the worlds of his childhood and adulthood together. For Lisa, it's a journey from loss and grief

back into life.

It's the combination of the clever repartee and satire in Whitcomb's script and some truly hilarious character acting that drives this production. Whitcomb in particular creates an amazing range of characters, from a hip-hop butch leather dyke to a sultry country/western singer-mechanic in red cowboy boots to a crotchety retired pianist. And her performance of Mrs. Edwards (Nick's Mom) is reminiscent of *Fargo* without going over-the-top.

Tse's Lisa is quite good, and Thorstenson's recorded performance of Nick is so clever you feel like he's really there. In fact, Nick's recorded message of farewell to

his mother nearly steals the show.

Designed by Andrea Bechert, the set with its rotating walls and Fred-Flintstone-gone-Silicon-Valley rental car successfully transforms the Rhino stage into the various destinations between San Francisco and Lake Odessa. The lavender mountains' majesty make the perfect backdrop to a play that connects the Castro to the Midwest. And the bovine interior decoration scheme in Mrs. Edwards' kitchen is worth title billing. ▼

Route 80 plays through October 11 at Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information.

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Harvey Fierstein at Solo Mio '97

This year's Solo Mio Festival, running through October 19, is perhaps the queerest Solo Mio Fest to date, featuring work of interest to queer audiences by performers David Mills, Mark Eitzel, Sean San Jose, Suzy Berger, Robert Arriola, Susie Bright, and others.

The biggest lavender highlight of the festival, however, will be an appearance by Harvey Fierstein (pictured), who takes his Solo Mio bow on September 19 & 20 with *This Is Not Going to Be Pretty*, a memorable musical spectacle in which Fierstein belts out songs, tells stories, and shows off his incomparable sense of humor. Don't miss the Tony Award-winning author of *Torch Song Trilogy* in this once-in-a-lifetime musical-theatrical tour de force. (Cowell Theatre, Pier 2, Fort Mason Center.) For tickets and information, call 392-4400. ▼



INTERVIEW

Man of a thousand faces

Antoniozzi masters seven roles in 'Death in Venice'

by Paul Thomason

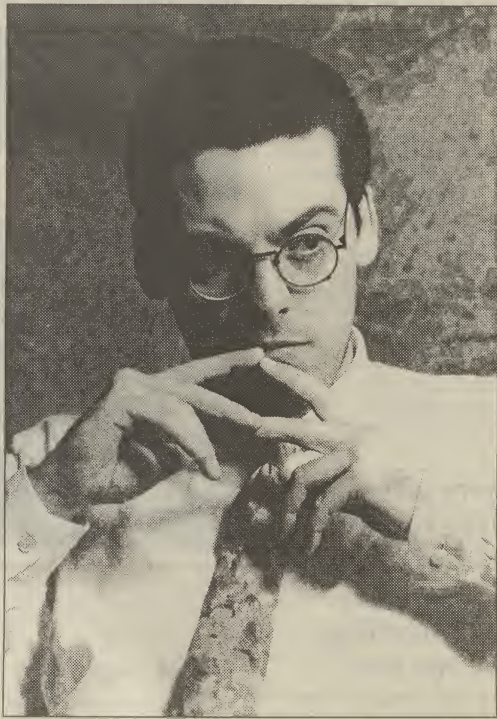
When you're on stage you're not being you, you're acting. You're just playing," says Alfonso Antoniozzi, the brilliant 33-year-old Italian baritone who is currently appearing in the San Francisco Opera production of Benjamin Britten's *Death in Venice*. "Playing is a beautiful word. That's what I think about my job, it's continual play. You just have to keep in contact with your inner child, which you make into an outer child." He pauses, then deadpans, "I have an inner adult" — and roars with laughter.

The comment is revealing, not only of Antoniozzi's superb grasp of idiomatic English and comic timing, but also his thoughtful, even philosophical approach to his profession.

Growing up in Viterbo, Italy, young Alfonso hated opera and planned to become an actor. So how did he become an opera singer? Antoniozzi's face suddenly becomes filled with sorrow as he solemnly intones, "I was doomed."

Actually it was a performance of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* that changed the 14-year-old boy's mind. "I fell in love with it and began singing along with a tape of the opera at home." Shortly thereafter, the young singer joined a local chorus, graduated to solo parts, and was persuaded to study voice professionally. Dissatisfied with his singing teacher at the conservatory in Rome, he looked in the telephone directory and found the name Sesto Bruscantini, a famous Italian baritone who specialized in comic roles. "He started giving me basic singing lessons as if I'd never sung before — and he never charged!" says Antoniozzi. "I'll never be able to repay the huge debt I owe him."

In *Death in Venice*, Antoniozzi is not only performing in English for the first time, he is also appearing in seven different roles over the course of the evening. Based on Thomas Mann's novella, Britten's opera tells the story of Gustav von Aschenbach, a middle-aged German writer who attempts to overcome a crippling case of writer's block by traveling to Venice, where he falls so completely under the spell of a beauti-



"You can see it as a tragedy, but I think Aschenbach dies happy."

ful boy that he refuses to leave the city, even after it has become cholera-infested. He eventually dies there. The part of Aschenbach was written for Britten's lifelong companion, tenor Peter Pears. The other major singer in the opera is the baritone who plays, in Antoniozzi's words, "Aschenbach's dark side, his unexplored side. I think of the seven roles like seven different aspects of Aschenbach."

Because Aschenbach dies at the end of the novella, *Death in Venice* has been criticized by some gays as a negative depiction of homosexuality. "You can see it in a tragic way, but my idea is that Aschenbach really dies happy," muses Antoniozzi. "When you find your true self, it's not really a tragedy. My idea is the opera is not a warning against homosexuality, it's an invitation to be yourself, because if you don't become

your true self, this is your future. Look at it.

"Maybe the right approach to this opera is to forget about the homosexuality theme and focus on the human dichotomy between intellect and passion," Antoniozzi suggests. "I don't want to sound New Age, but maybe it's an opera about being what you are, trying to experience all the things

next page ►

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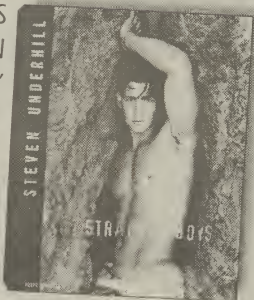
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Latin Boys

◀ Arts cover

Justin's cousin, the sexy, street-tough Angel (John Bryant Davila), arriving for a visit at the Brooklyn home of Justin and his mother (Norma Maldonado). His attraction to Angel, as well as his seduction at the hands of a slutty buff-boy, Carlos (Mike Ruiz), serve to coax nascent queer Justin out of the closet. Justin soon realizes, however, that pining after the hopelessly het Angel, who falls for Justin's friend Andrea (Jennifer Lee Simard), is futile.

With Angel as the catalyst, the lives of Justin and his friends begin to resemble the lurid plotlines of their favorite telenovela, *Dos Vidas*. (Anyone who has seen the preternaturally blonde and fair-skinned Latinas who populate telenovelas will appreciate the casting of gringa Guinevere Turner of *Go Fish* fame as the heroine of the soap-within-a-soap, *Dos Vidas*.) Before long, Andrea's friend Braulio (Alexis Artilles) begins to resent the fact that his favorite fag-hag is spending all of her time with Angel. Braulio becomes further incensed when he

learns of his boyfriend Carlos' numerous infidelities, and — in a typical telenovela cycle of lust-jealousy-revenge — he devises some particularly grisly ways of getting even.

Troyano's film cleverly homophies the archetypal female characters of telenovelas: the ingenue (Justin), the vixen (Carlos), and the psycho-bitch (Braulio) all take the form of gay men in the film. But the movie's performers rarely display any of the spark of the preeminent telenovela divas. Too often, Ossa's Justin, rather than coming across as young and unworldly, seems merely bland. As Carlos, the usually shirtless Ruiz acts with his pecs and biceps, flexing and preening his way through the role. Artilles is con-

vincingly scary at times as Braulio, but it's Davila as Angel who gives the film's best performance. In a movie full of luscious Latinos, Davila radiates the most charisma and generates the most heat.

The basic problem with this film is its concept. A parody of telenovelas is, after all, a little redundant; the writers of the best Latin soaps are masters of striking a balance between the serious and the tongue-in-check. So you can have your *Latin Boys*. I'll take *Los Hijos De Nadie* any day. ▼

Latin Boys Go to Hell plays September 19-25 at the Castro Theatre. Call 621-6120 for information.

Antoniozzi

◀ previous page

your soul wants to experience without caring what society will say, what religion will say, what other people will say. Maybe it's an opera about being true to yourself."

The fact that Antoniozzi is gay

saying that all gays are talented actors, but we definitely have a plus, because every one of us has had to face life more than other people do — because of society's rules. We have to get in touch with ourselves and to try not to live in denial. Being gay helps you to discover something that you didn't know you had."

Doing the role in San Francis-

"I think we're more gifted than other people...we have to get in touch with ourselves and to try not to live in denial. Being gay helps you to discover something that you didn't know you had."

helped him say yes to doing the opera. "I rarely can play an openly gay piece. And I think if you're gay, you don't have any trouble with the gay aspects to the opera.

"I'm going to be politically incorrect here. I think we're more gifted than other people. I'm not

co is also a plus for the baritone. "There are three opera houses I love in the world: La Scala, Rome, and San Francisco. I would like to move to San Francisco, but I have an Italian partner in Genoa and it's hard enough to convince him to move from Genoa to Rome, so



Alfonso Antoniozzi as Don Geronio in Rossini's 'Il Turco in Italia.'

I don't think moving to San Francisco is a possibility."

Antoniozzi often specializes in comic roles like Dr. Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* (he made his U.S. opera debut in the role at SEO in 1992) and Fra Melitone in Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, a role he sang for the first time ever in San Francisco. "I am a baritone with a dark color to my voice, and since I studied with Sesto Bruscantini and fell in love with opera because I listened to opera buffa, I felt it was logical to start doing this kind of repertoire. It's a great schooling, because it forces you to work with the words and to express yourself with all the vocal colors. If you sing it properly you always

sing it legato."

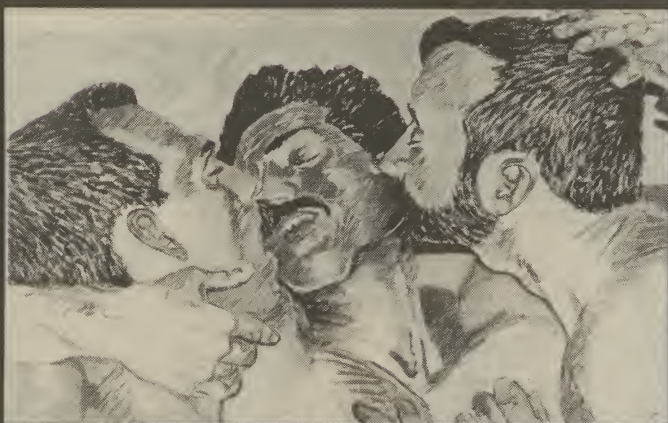
The baritone considers himself "a very old-fashioned singer" who believes he should wait to perform some of the larger Verdi baritone roles until he grows into them. "A singer's work should start from the score. I would like to do some Verdi roles in which the acting possibilities are far greater than the singing. Iago for instance, or Germont, the kind of characters for which you don't need a heroic color."

And maybe, if the gods are kind and opera lovers are lucky, one day Alfonso Antoniozzi will decide he is ready to do the title role in Verdi's *Falstaff*. Please, Mr. Antoniozzi, please? ▼



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"The Kiss," acrylic on canvas by Sandy Shapiro

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FILM

Been there, done that

'In & Out': overhyped film more in than out

by Gary Morris

The legacy of *The Birdcage* lives on in *In & Out*, the heavily promoted, endlessly discussed, infamous-before-it's-been-released, new "gay movie." Mike Nichols' vastly popular 1995 updating of the adventures of fluttery drama queen Albin and his stoic, indulgent "husband" proved that large audiences were willing to plunk down big bucks for a two-hour taste of queer subculture, as long as the camera didn't linger too long on the details.

In & Out tries to achieve a *Birdcage*-like appeal without completely burying the fragile "queer sensibility." While the earlier film's gay couple, played by Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, never express physical affection, the whole plot of *In & Out* pivots on a 16-second queer kiss between Kevin Kline and Tom Selleck (I timed it). The queer element here is largely the result of a double gay presence among the filmmakers — screenwriter Paul Rudnick and producer Scott Rudin. Thanks largely to them, queer and hip straight audiences alike will cheer the kiss, the send-ups of such dubious institutions as marriage and high school, Hollywood, and even the endless comic assaults on beloved divas like Streisand and Ethel Merman. But asking us to accept a sophisticated man like Howard Brackett (Kevin Kline) as

a 40-year-old closet case with no sexual history — in fact no sign of sexual identity at all — is a bit too much.

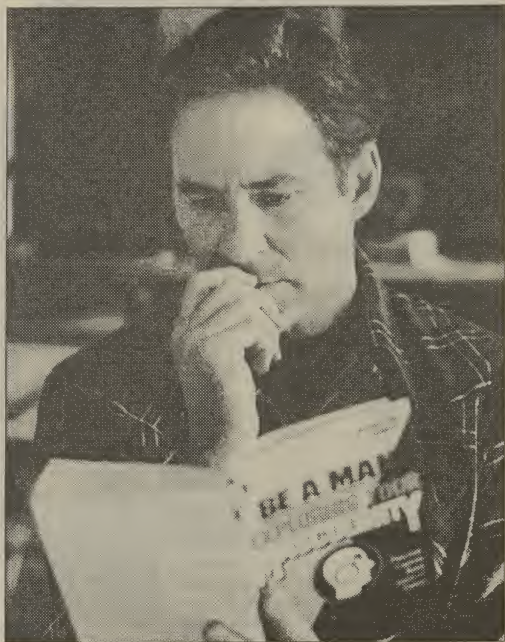
In & Out opens in an amusingly idealized, small Midwestern town. Greenleaf, Indiana resembles a leftover set from *Father Knows Best*, or perhaps *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* — everybody's white, they smile a lot, they ride bikes and go fishing; in short, there is no sense of an outside world or even much internal upheaval to trouble their empty little heads. Howard Brackett is a prim, 40ish, adored English teacher and track coach who is engaged to potential spinster Emily Montgomery (Joan Cusack). He mockingly says he won't get married until a former student-turned actor wins an Academy Award (no doubt he assumes this will never happen). When Cameron Drake (a peroxided Matt Dillon, in a swipe at Brad Pitt) wins the award, Howard is faced with two problems. He now has to marry Emily, but worse, he's branded as queer when Cameron Drake publicly thanks him and adds, "Oh ... and he's gay." While Howard vehemently denies it, his perceived homosexuality has a catastrophic effect on his life and on the town. His students, once fiercely devoted, now stare at him; he's fired; his mother (Debbie Reynolds) goes apoplectic when she thinks there's no marriage in the offing (she is less concerned that he might be

gay); and Greenleaf is inundated by tabloid TV crews who chase the man Cameron Drake outed on national television. The balance of the film concerns Howard's attempts to come to grips with his orientation, helped along by Peter Malloy (Tom Selleck), as an out queer newscaster.

Sexless disco dancer

Howard is one of those characters who is smarter, more sophisticated, and better-looking than anybody else but doesn't seem to have a sex life. Aside from the kiss, the only place we see him express his sexuality is in a funny scene in which he tries to recover his "lost maleness." After being told by his students that he's too "clean" and "prissy" — sure signs of queerness — he plays a tape called "Exploring Your Masculinity." In a clever take on the navel-gazing self-help movement, the screeching butch narrator has him recite a string of typical "masculine" phrases, only he tricks him with a statement about "a fabulous window treatment!" The inner queer, however, is too strong to repress, and Kline ends up prancing luridly through the room. In the context of the whole film, this scene, an engaging showcase for Kline's slapstick talents, is highly problematic; it's campy but also grating with its bold stereotyping. And the fact that Kline's sexuality is repressed

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Kevin Kline as Howard Brackett in *In & Out*.

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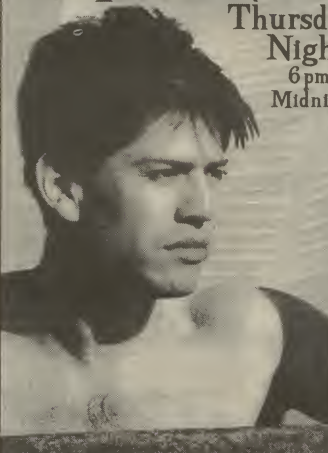
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Fizzle in Venice

SFO's 'Death in Venice'

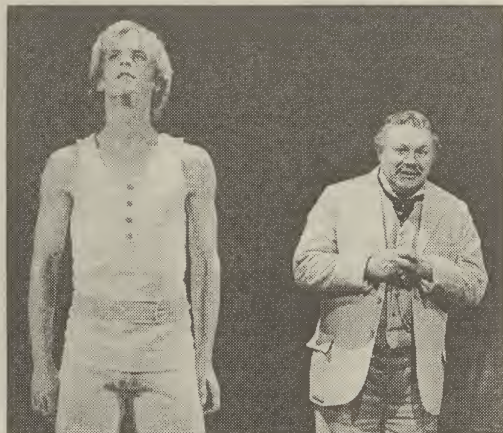
by Stephanie von Buchau

It's a good thing that everybody concerned with the San Francisco Opera's *Death in Venice* keeps insisting that there is nothing homoerotic about this production of Benjamin Britten's last opera. Because unless you get off on the blond stripling who plays the object of the hero's lust, or on the protean antics of talented Italian baritone Alfonso Antoniazzi, there is nothing homoerotic — or even erotic — about this damp fizzle.

I'm not sure how much of this is the result of the performance or is attributable to the work itself. Based on Thomas Mann's introspective novella, *Death in Venice* is about a fictional German writer, Gustav von Aschenbach, who in mid-life suffers writer's block and travels to Venice to revive his creative impulses. Britten wrote the opera in 1972 as a gift to his long-time lover, the British tenor Peter Pears. By the time of the opera's premiere, Pears was 63 and no longer capable of anything that an opera lover would call "singing," which is reflected in the opera's tortured vocal line.

At his best, Pears possessed an uncanny, colorless, hoity voice. Kenneth Riegel, SFO's Aschenbach, is not quite that bad, but he makes his share of oddly attenuated noises, not all of them in tune, and you can't understand a word of his mush-mouthed diction. In addition, he's all wrong physically for the part. I can't think of another opera, besides *Turandot*, in which appearance is more important. A fat, fussy Calaf, no matter what his "Nessun dorma" sounds like, reminds us forcibly of what a horrifying opera *Turandot* can be if you don't buy its life-affirming premise that sex conquers death.

Sex is not meant to conquer death in the despairing *Death in Venice*, but we can't share Mann's Aristotelian purgation through pity and horror if Aschenbach's degradation is not made palpable by the singing and acting of the main character. Whether it was Riegel's or director Lotfi Mansouri's idea to have Aschenbach behave like a prissy queen, reeling and flittering through the streets



Christopher Newnam and Kenneth Riegel in *Death in Venice*.

of Venice and baring his teeth in hideous smiles, it was a major miscalculation. Pears, however strangely he sang, was a slender hawk of a man, with the physical dignity and imperiousness required of the role of Aschenbach, who is, after all, a classical writer weighed down by the knowledge that he has not lived an authentic life.

In Venice, under the subliminal threat of plague (Asiatic cholera, not AIDS), Aschenbach spies a young Polish boy, Tadzio, vacationing with his mother and sisters at the Lido's Hotel des Bains. At the end of the opera, as Aschenbach lies dying in a beach chair, Tadzio seems to beckon him. A boy beckoning to an old man on stage has to be handled with the utmost delicacy and conviction. Casting Tadzio in the opera has always been a problem. The part is silent, and we know that the original choreographer, Frederick Ashton, warned Britten that the dance music was too long, and that in order to dance it Tadzio would be too mature and muscular to be convincing as a boy. That is precisely the problem with Christopher Newnam, an attractive young man who is too well-built — to say nothing of being taller than Aschenbach — to pass for a 13-year-old.

As for the choreography, Michael Smuin's dances are sim-

ple enough in the first act — though a modern dance choreographer would seem a better match to the material — but his work gets ballet-kitschy in the dream sequence of Act II, where the voices of Apollo (Michael Chance) and Dionysus (Antoniuzzi) wage the age-old battle between reason and sensuality for Aschenbach's soul.

That scene is musically the most satisfying in an opera that runs an eclectic gamut, from piano-accompanied recitative to the shimmering, otherworldly tuned-percussion accompanying Tadzio.

San Francisco Opera's orchestral contribution was outstanding, with conductor Donald Runnicles varying the colors and, in the dream sequence, packing a visceral wallop as big as any in Wagner. The best sustained singing of the evening came from David Ockerlund, whose grave, compassionate travel agent warns Aschenbach of the impending plague. Wolfram Skalicki's cinematic stage pictures seemed attuned to the era in which the opera was written, not to its period (1911) or to today's more sophisticated stagecraft. ▼

Death in Venice continues at the San Francisco Opera through September 27. Call 864-3330 for tickets.

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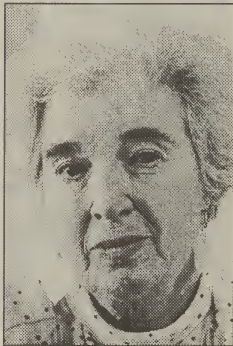
Expanding reality

by Deborah Peifer

Why History Matters: Life and Thought by Gerda Lerner; Oxford University Press, \$30

I have been an admirer of Gerda Lerner's work since I read her extraordinary history, *The Creation of the Patriarchy* (Oxford, 1986). In the ensuing years, Lerner has taken the feminist history project to depths that were unimaginable only a few years ago. Her newest, and most personal effort, *Why History Matters*, is a collection of essays in which Lerner explores the necessity of history, for her own life and ours.

Born to a family of Austrian Jews, Lerner's childhood was filled with the mixed messages of her assimilated parents and an anti-Semitic country. Her father would not allow her to make friends with Gentiles or with Jews who still spoke Yiddish. She explains further: "When, one day in high school, I brought home the first B grade I had ever earned, my father reacted as though the world were coming to an end.... I was told in no uncertain terms, 'Jews don't get B's.'" As assimilated as the family was, they learned after the *Anschluss* just how Jewish they were in the eyes of the new Nazi government. The family fled Austria, and when she arrived in the United States, Lerner was determined to be an American. It would be 50 years before she would willingly speak German again.



Author Gerda Lerner

Embracing American language and culture, Lerner never lost sight of her status as other: as a Jew in a Christian country, as a refugee among the native born, as a woman in patriarchy. It is her continuing awareness of otherness that makes Lerner a historian especially worth noting. She sees what others have seen, and then she thinks what no one has thought. The essays in this collection include a very personal discourse on her rediscovery of the German language in "Living in Translation" and a frightening look at the way a contemporary German manages to repeat the very anti-Semitic phrases that were used in the '30s ("In the Footsteps of the Cathars").

But *Why History Matters* is much more than autobiography. With impeccable scholarship,

Lerner sets out to reconcile the seemingly disparate categories of gender, class and race, and explains with stunning clarity the ways in which these categories are both socially constructed and designed to maintain the superior status of straight white men of the upper class. "To help me visualize the complex of relationships, I think of the human body, as represented in the usual medical texts. The skeleton is represented on one page, the muscular system on another, then circulation, nerves, organs, etc. In fact, all these systems are inseparable and inter-related and they do not make any sense unless they are seen as aspects of a functioning organism. Prioritizing them as to their significance to the organism as a whole is obviously futile. Which is more important, race, class or gender? is a nonsensical question, any answer to which obscures more than it illuminates."

The cornerstone of the collection is "Rethinking the Paradigm: I. Class; II. Race." In the first part, Lerner uses the examples of a brother and sister in various historical settings to reveal the ways in which women and men experience class differently. For example, she notes that "even the most powerful medieval women, like Eleanor of Aquitaine, Margrethe of Denmark and Isabella of Castile, could not use their power to advance the position of women." In the second, she explores the social construction of "race" and the ways in which pseudo-science is used to create

Miscellany

by Deborah Peifer

Thanks to the astonishing number of books the B.A.R. sends my way, I rarely have a chance to reread old favorites, but this week I treated myself to *All the Muscle You Need*, an extraordinarily well-constructed, entertaining mystery by Diana McRae. Published in 1988 by Spinsters/Aunt Lute, *ATMYN* is filled with remarkable characters and an amazingly convoluted plot. As far as I know, McRae hasn't written another novel, but I would love to be disabused of that notion. If you have a treasure that you'd like to share, send the title, author, publisher, and publication date; it will be included in a future column.

I recently took another giant step toward 50 (how can that be? I'm so immature), and I suspect that's why two newish books from Papier-Mache Press attracted my attention. Susan Carol Hauser's *Full Moon: Reflections on Turning Fifty* came out last year and is a collection of observations, anecdotes, and recipes for living. Gloriously illustrated with paintings by Barbara Van Arnem, *Full Moon* is Hauser's journey through the year that led to 50. She combines wry humor with common sense, making this small volume a pleasure to read. An essay titled "Combustion" will be of special interest for any woman for whom the term hot flash is no longer in the future.

Old is Not a Four-Letter Word, at least according to Ann E. Gerike, who offers good advice plainly spoken in this volume, which demolishes many of the myths around aging. Although Gerike's approach is light-hearted, she still manages to convey a great deal of information. For those who need to know more, she includes a reading list and information on a variety of newsletters. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a literary nature, please forward to dpeifer@delphi.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

arbitrary categories. Using the Nazi's transformation of Jewishness from religion to racial characteristic as an example, Lerner shows "the irrationality of the designation race."

In all of her essays, Lerner combines unimpeachable scholarship with language that is al-

ways accessible and often poetic in its intensity. What does it mean to be Jewish? she asks, "what burdens and responsibilities does it pose for us? These are very personal questions that do not lend themselves easily to meaningful generalization. They are ancient

page 54 ►

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Saturday Sept. 20, 1997: Typical Hot DOCK NIGHT. SLAVE CHECK COURTESY OF Bent Bar Ranch from 10pm-1am.

Sunday Sept. 21, 1997: A Sodomasochistic merchandise mart. Several of the cities hottest retailers will be showing their hardest and most outrageous merchandise for your inspection. 8-11 p.m. BUCK OFF well cocktails and domestic beer.

Monday Sept. 22, 1997: TIGHT BUTTS AND BUSTED BUTTONS. A tribute to Levi Strauss' famous creation 501's. BUCK OFF any drink all night to those in 501's. YOU KNOW, WEAR the SLEAZY PAIR!!!

Tuesday Sept. 23, 1997: In conjunction with Bent Bar Ranch, we present a rubber and w/s party. Men in rubber/latex drink for a BUCK OFF any beer all night. "Oh that's why the water in the trough is yellow."

Wednesday Sept 24, 1997: YES SIR, a night of uniforms. Men in full uniform drink for a BUCK OFF all night. BE THERE! YES SIR!

For more details please see our SPECIAL EVENT web page @ <http://www.BentBar.com/loadingdock.html> or call the bar during business hours. Also see Bent Bar Ranches web page @ <http://www.Bentbar.com>

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Let the games begin!

by Mister Marcus

The long weeks of planning, meetings, volunteerism - and other major and minor trauma - come to a head this weekend as SF's Leather Pride Week kicks off. Literally thousands of leather-oriented people are already here or en route for the world's biggest leather party. Besides being a good time for almost all concerned, thousands of dollars will be raised for worthy charities. Yeah, we party a lot, but we raise a lot of money in the process to make life more palatable for the sick and needy.

This Sunday, Sept. 21, marks the official kickoff of Leather Pride Week with the Leather Pride Walk, which leaves at 1400 from Daddy's Bar in the Castro and ends at the SF-Eagle with one pit stop at the Powerhouse. You've been gathering pledges from friends, lovers and co-workers, haven't you? David Kelsey will provide the musical accompaniment. After the marchers arrive at the Eagle, Lenny Broberg commandeers the mike to auction off six of the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men for dinner dates to some of SF's finest eateries - and lots and lots of surprises! Don't miss it!

I've received 74 press releases for events taking place between now and next weekend! You know I can't list them all! Benefit events take priority here, and space limitations preclude listing them all. Onward!

At this writing, all 11 U.S. regional Mr. Drummers have been chosen, the last one in St. Louis; Mike Wren is the new Mr. Great Plains Drummer. The Gateway MC did an outstanding job with their first production, and the raves are still pouring in!

Besides Mr. Wren, the other contestants are: Mr. Florida Drummer Jeffrey Adler (Miami); Mr. Southeast Drummer J. Martin Ellis (Atlanta); Mr. Great Lakes Drummer Randy May (Columbus, Ohio); Mr. Northeast Drummer Will Clark (New York); Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer Troy Taylor (Washington, D.C.); Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown (SF); Mr. Southern California Drummer Robert Conway (LA); Mr.


Bazaar

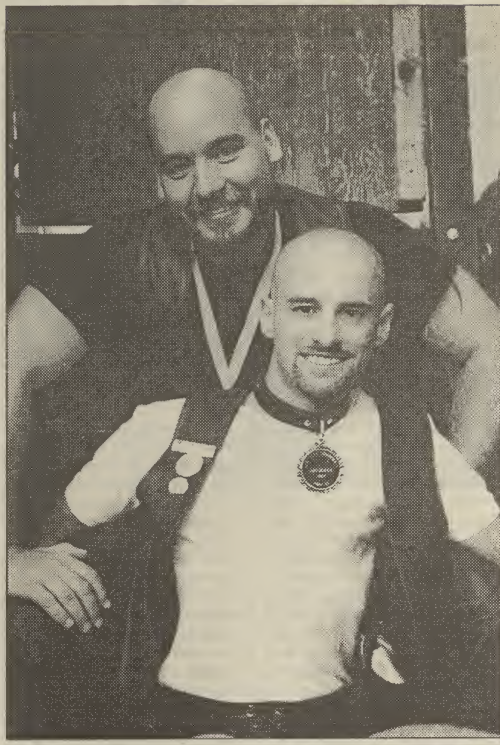
their regions in baskets to be auctioned off. Proceeds go to the travel fund for the eventual winner who will be announced at the Mr. Drummer finals on Saturday, Sept. 27. The theme of this year's contest is "Real Sex vs. Cyber Sex" as envisioned by producer Cara Haynes. Sounds very, very interesting. Tickets are going fast. Do you have yours yet?

Two events next week are very worthy of your support. The first is a benefit for *Cuir Underground* (to keep them publishing!) at 848 Divisadero on Wednesday night, Sept. 24, at 2000. It's called "Wash Your Mouth Out With Soap," with several guest stars for a \$5-\$20 sliding scale. Call 861-6595 to reserve. *CU* is a leather/SM publication that we need! Thank you for your contribution!

The other extravaganza is the Second Annual Leather Daddies Art Auction at the Eagle on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 2000, with a \$6 beer bust and art, art, art from such icons as Leon of SF, Tom of Finland and others. This one benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund. You can view and make silent bids on items at Auto Erotica, 4077A 18th (upstairs) until Sept. 24. Art to donate? Call Patrick at 621-1188.

Dot, Dot, Dot...Dish

Well, the biggest subject occupying phone lines, e-mail screens



Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown and Drummer Boy Dan Hughes represent our region at the finals on Sept. 28.

Rocky Mountain Drummer Orie Thompson (Denver); Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer Ken Claude (Houston); Mr. New England Drummer Joey Krol (Boston); and Mr. Europe Drummer Fabrice van den Bosche (Paris, France).

You can meet most of them on Wednesday night, Sept. 24, at the Golden Gate Guards beer bust at the Eagle.

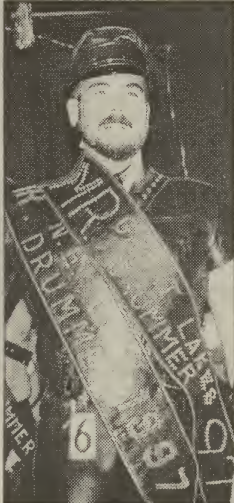
Meet all 12 winners at the Powerhouse bar on Thursday night, Sept. 25, when they bring goodies from

and web sites last week was the news that the SF-Eagle has been sold and the new owners are the same ones who own the Hole in the Wall. For once, rumor is truth!

You'd think everyone lost their food stamps there was so much wailing! "Are they going to change the name?" No! "Is it going to be a dance bar now?" No! None of these rumors is true! Eagle owner from the beginning, Jay Levine, finally decided to throw in the towel, and luckily for us, John Gardiner and his ever-lovin' Joe caught it. My discussion with Mr. Gardiner last Sunday elicited the following: There will be a few changes. The Sunday beer busts will continue; the Bare Chest Calendar will continue; and few staff changes, if any, will take place. So just sit down; have a cappuccino, a beer or an adult beverage; and relax! ▼



Mr. Southeast Drummer J. Martin Ellis of Atlanta competes next week.



Mr. Great Lakes Drummer Randy May represents some six states in the Mr. Drummer finals.

WHISKEY & RYE

Nuts to you!

by Sweet Lips

Good news for all you barflies! (This includes "social drinkers" like my favorite leather maven, Mister Marcus.) As I've always suspected, it turns out that "imbibing" peanuts may benefit your heart, so all you souses who've been inhaling those Planters tidbits with your highballs over the years may just outlive the more sober among us (whoever they may be).

Yes, folks, according to a UPI Science News item by Alan Hall, research recently presented at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in Las Vegas shows that "peanuts contain the same heart-healthy chemical [resveratrol] important in red wine. ... Frequent consumption of peanuts and other nuts results in reduced cardiovascular disease and lowered total cholesterol," said Timothy Sanders of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Raleigh, N.C., Agricultural Research Center. ... With funding from the Peanut Institute, Sanders and co-worker Robert McMichael went searching for resveratrol in the goober pea. The scientists adapted analytical methods used for resveratrol in wine to isolate and identify the substance in peanuts. They examined Spanish and Virginia peanuts from different production locations in the United States. Sure enough, resveratrol was there."

Isn't science fascinating, gentle readers? Not only are peanuts,

cashews, pecans, almonds, etc. good for you, but when washed down with a few glasses of Chianti or a nice merlot or cabernet sauvignon, it turns out you're doing the old ticker a world of good! I guess that explains why Otter Outrage always has his face buried in the peanut barrel over at that ursine emporium, the Lone Star Saloon. I'd always imagined it was because he was too cheap to buy food, but now I find out that he's really on a health kick! Who'd have thought it?

It's time once again to drag out all those *Sweet Charity* outfits moldering in the back of your closet! This year's The Hookers' Halloween Ball is slated for Friday, Oct. 31, at the Maritime Hall at 450 Harrison Street. The special VIP party kicks off at 7 p.m., and the main event, which features tons of music and dancing, gears

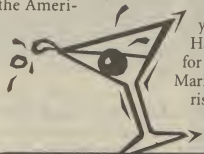
up around 8:30 p.m. For more info regarding ticket prices, etc., call the event hotline at 415/646-0763. Greta Grass will be there as Elizabeth Taylor from *Butterfield 8*, and I'll be resplendent in my Melina Mercouri/*Never on Sunday* fille de joie outfits. Spot us and win a pair of free fishnets!

Speaking of the garrulous Greta, the Lady Bountiful is now at the Hob Nob on Thursdays and Fridays, 6 a.m.-noon, plus the Giraffe on Sundays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. I don't know why Greta needs another job; rumor has it that Jenny Craig pays her plenty to stay away from her headquarters on California Street. That Greta knows how to turn a buck when she needs to!



Sweet Lips and friend at the Hookers' Ball in October, 1954.

Don't miss the Sunrise Foundation's "Dinners for Charity" bash on Monday, Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m., at the Avenidas Bar and Restaurant, 199 Gough Street (at Oak). For a measly \$10, enjoy a scrumptious steak or fried shrimp dinner, and for the unheard of low cost of five bucks, sink your choppers into a simply delicious spaghetti or baked chicken feast. Famed mixologist L. James will be on the plank pouring your favorite libations, and dispensing his usual wit and wisdom with his patented flair. All proceeds from this gourmet event benefit SoMa HIV Consulting, a nonprofit research group. Run - don't walk - to purchase your tickets at the either the Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk) or Sunrise Printing (6 Valencia at Market). And when you come, come hungry! ▼



Cocktail Hour

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Sept. 18

All work donated by outstanding artists for the Leather Daddies art auction at the Eagle (Thursday, Sept. 25) goes on display at Auto Erotica on 18th Street. You can make silent bids there until Sept. 24.

Constantines MC beer bust at Daddy's, 2000-2400, \$7, 50/50 raffle to benefit GSF and Rita Rockett Brunches.

Friday, Sept. 19

Mark I. Chester's Sextant 5 photo show reception, 1900-2300, \$5. View work from six New York and San Francisco photographers at 1225 Folsom Street (at Ninth).

Those singing sensations, the Bearatones, inaugurate Castro Cabaret shows at MCC (150 Eureka Street) tonight at 2000. Call 552-6031 to reserve sliding-scale \$5-\$10 tickets.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2200-2300, by UCSF AIDS Health Project and Blow Buddies.

Exiles/SF meeting at the Women's Building, 1930-2000, \$5. Topic: "Expanding Your Threshhold of Pain." Call 487-5170.

Knights of Malta MC members show photos at the Eagle beer bust of their recent Sanctuary week-end run, \$6, 2100-2400.

Saturday, Sept. 20

International Mr./Ms. Cheeks & Chaps contest at the Eagle, 2100, with \$6 beer bust. Call (510) 889-7664 for details.

Bears of SF beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900, \$6. Last call for hot dogs until next May!

Sunday, Sept. 21

Sixth Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's on Castro to Eagle on Harrison. Immediately after the march, six 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men auctioned off for dinner dates (featuring limo rides to Fleetwood Mac by Regency Limo plus tickets to *Beach Blanket Babylon*), with an \$8 beer bust and food by Harvey's. Don't miss this one!

Monday, Sept. 22

Lou Duff's Gray Hankie Social, first anniversary party at Lexington Club (3464 19th Street), 2000 to 2200. No cover. Bring rope. Demos. Drink specials. Congrats, Lou!

Grand opening of the Powerhouse Bar under new management, 1600-2200, with an open bar, full buffet and \$5 donation to benefit AIDS Benefit Counselors.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Meet the Mr. Drummer contestants at the Eagle with the Golden Gate Guards' \$6 beer bust.

GDis' beer bust at Daddy's.

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison - you know the rules!

Grand opening of erotic art show "Resurgence" at Raven Gallery, 2187 Market, 1800-2100, featuring nine artists from NY; SF; Washington, D.C.; etc.

Cuir Underground benefit at 848 Divisadero (see column).

Thursday, Sept. 25

Leather Daddies second annual art auction at 2000, with a \$6 beer bust to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Got art to donate? Call Patrick at 621-1188.

Mr. Drummer Basket Auction at the Powerhouse beginning at 2000. Benefits the winner's travel fund. Meet all the contestants and contribute to the cause!

Friday, Sept. 26

Fetish & Fantasy Ball at Club Townsend with tickets \$12 advance/\$15 door. Call 974-6020 (menu no. 2) to charge to Visa, MC, AmEx or purchase at Mister S.

Also, the Northern California Association of the Deaf presents "Drummer Last Supper" for \$8, with beer, food and roast of IMD Kyle Brandon and IMDB Mike DeNisco. Emceed by IMsL Genelle Moore and IMDL Patrick Richardson.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



My Mercury Mouth (detail), by Timothy B. Buckwalter

Guys & gal(lerie)s

Yippee, the new art season has finally begun. Many Yerba Buena-area galleries opened their shows during the Gallery Walk event on September 4; and with the 90s art spectacle *Present Tense* now open at SFMOMA, and the imminent opening of the fall exhibitions at Center for the Arts, there's enough stimulation to send art-lovers scurrying.

SF artist Timothy B. Buckwalter has a solo show, charmingly titled *Don't Make It Necessary For Us To Force You*, at Braunstein/Quay Gallery through September 27. Buckwalter has reproduced vintage era *New Yorker*-type cartoons onto otherwise abstract, even monochromatic canvases, and the collision of the retro-figurative drawings with the paintings' slick, sumptuous surfaces makes for a nice *frisson*, as they say in these circles. Of course, Richard Prince was doing much the same thing back in the 80s, silk-screening *New Yorker* cartoons or just their dada punch-lines onto otherwise blank canvases. But where Prince's works were aggressively ugly, Buckwalter's paintings have a sheen, a 90s design savvy about them that suggest artist as, say, advertising executive—but a cool one.

Meanwhile, over at SF Camera-work's new Yerba Buena digs on Natoma, Deborah Hammond's *Transgendered Portrait* series presents the faces of transsexuals, drag queens, and drag kings emerging from full darkness into light. Hammond describes this dramatic, chiaroscuro lighting effect as "a metaphor for the act of self-creation," presumably the true transgendered self emerging from false gender assignment. She found her subjects through ads in this city's weeklies; the resulting full-on portraits look like the human family. ▼

Timothy B. Buckwalter's 'Don't Make It Necessary For Us To Force You' remains on view through September 27 at Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. Call 392-5532 for information. Deborah Hammond's 'Transgendered Portrait' shows with Todd Hido's 'House Hunting' through October 4 at SF Camera-work, 115 Natoma St. \$4 admission. Call 764-1001 for information.

The Pomo Afro Homos as captured by Robert Giard's camera, part of the *Particular Voices* exhibit in the Skylight Gallery at the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center. See Tuesday.



Fri

American Songbook

Stephen Pelton Dance Theater presents world premiere. Wed.-Sun. thru 9/21 at 8pm. \$12.50-18.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Cabaret Castro

Reginald Lamar, Randy Walker and the Bearstones make music at 8pm. Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk at 10pm. \$5-10. MCC, 150 Eureka. 552-6031.

iCine Latino!

Cine Acción's Latino film fest, includes tribute to cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa. Thru 9/21, call for times. \$6-7. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 553-8140.

Drop Dead Gorgeous

Gay comic Steve Moore's one-man show. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/21. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

En Drag

Seven of SF's finest female impersonators, hosted by Chablis and Alexandra. \$7. 9:10-11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Fanny

42nd Street Moon presents concert version of 1954 musical. Thurs.-Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 6pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 9/21. \$18.50. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Harvey Fierstein

Tony Award-winner in *This is NOT Going to be Pretty* performance piece, part of Solo Mio Fest. Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 7 & 9:30pm. \$24.50. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together screen *One Nation Under God*. \$2. 7pm. 95 Duboce. 675-0201.

Margaret Tedesco

Multidisciplinary artist conducts participatory evening. \$5-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, Fort Mason. 554-0402.

Not Enough Rope

Elaine May's play, with *Annie Hauls* by Randy Paulos: two one-act co-dependent comedies. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/28. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Passport 97

Macy's "Evening of Fashion and Compassion," dance party benefits New Leaf AIDS counseling & recovery services. \$10 adv., \$15 door. 10pm. Club Townsend, 177 Townsend. 1-888-TIX-ONLY.

SexArt 5

East/West radical sex photo slam, a group exhibition, opens tonight, 7pm (\$5). Sat. & Sun., 1-6pm, thru 10/12. \$2. Mark I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom. 292-3223.

Swing Out!

Nancy Karp & Dancers perform, galleries open, 8pm. Swing class, 9pm. Laway Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers headline swing party, 9:30pm. \$10. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Sat

CAPA Forums

Neighborhood residents & business owners discuss long-term transportation needs of the Castro. 1pm. Eureka Valley Rec Ctr., 100 Collingwood. 522-1221.

Hollywood Cabaret

Cabaret performers and female impersonators, hosted by Miss Bette Davis. 10pm. \$5. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Miss Gay Universe

Pageant benefits Filipino Task Force on AIDS. \$20. 7:30pm. Palace of Fine Arts, Lyon St. 882-7020.

Potluck Fiesta

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano, Spanish-speaking gay men and friends, holds potluck. Call for details. 863-7087.

Ralph Nader Is Missing

Charlie Varon's play, extended thru 9/28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm.

\$17-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Route 80:

"Cars, Cows and Caffeine," Erin-Kate Whitcomb's multi-character emotional road trip. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/11, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

SF Blues Fest

25th annual blues festival, incl. Joe Louis Walker, Bobby "Blue" Bland, more. Sat. & Sun., 10:30am-5pm. Great Meadow, Fort Mason. 979-5588.

Twilight Gamelan

Gong-chime orchestra Pusaka Sunda and Gamelan Sekar Jaya ensemble perform, free. 7pm. Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

The Unreality of Being

Henry Darger's outsider art, thru 11/30. \$5. Center for the

Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

What Makes It Queer?

Spoken word performance by transgender activist Susan Stryker. \$7-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Ctr., 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Syn

Body Positive BBQ

Party for HIV+ men, Castro location. 2-6pm. Call for info. 241-1579.

The Fabric of Life:

"150 Years of Northern California Fiber Art History" exhibition, thru 10/18. Reception today, 2pm. Art Dept. Gallery, Arts and Industry Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Gay Marriage:

"Who Needs It?" Historian Ken Miller speaks to G40+ Club, free. 2pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

Geoffrey Yves-Bishop

Velvety cabaret melodies, no cover. 8pm. Harvey's, 500 Castro. 431-4278.

Louise Brooks

"Portraits and Memorabilia" of 1920s actress on display, thru 9/28. What's For Dessert, 1497 Church. 695-9477.

Mon

Conditional

Series of landscape photography by Aaron Caplan, thru Sept. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

Up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. MC Marilyn Pittman. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Grey Hankie Social

Dark Angel Productions anniversary bash, rope demos. No cover. 8pm. Lexington Club, 3464 19th St. 550-0122.

Michael Johnstone

Color photography & mixed media on display, thru Sept. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

One Mile Shebang

Reading of poetry and fiction by Katia Noyes, Al Lujan, Justin Chin, more. Free. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Painted Tales

Works from artist Richard Taylor's sixty years of painting, thru 12/31. Veterans Bldg., 4th fl., 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Rebecca Bollinger

Art exhibition, with Lowell Darling, thru 10/11. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Shiro Kuramata

Exhibition of works by Japanese designer, thru 12/12. SF-MOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Soapbox Readings

Zyzzva editor Howard Junker leads readings of selections from banned books, free. Noon. Larkin St. steps, Main Library.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadeff, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Tues

Colonial Noir

SF photographer Reid Yalom's pictures of Mexico. Thru 11/1. Sightings Gallery, 435 Bryant. 546-1132.

Financial District Side Show

Liz White, Bill Bernat & Bridget Schwartz in comic sketches on office life. Tues. at 8pm thru Sept. \$6-10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Free Food & Frontal Nudity

New musical comedy: Jed Feuer, Boyd Graham portray full cast of characters. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$22-35. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

From Negative to Positive

Solo show of artwork by Daniel Woods, thru 9/30. Flower Therapy, 3180 17th St.

Good Band/Bad Band

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom



"Gathering Lamp" by Reid S. Yalom, part of *Colonial Noir* at Sightings Gallery. See Tuesday.



Barbara Nitke's untitled photograph is part of SexArt 5 at Mark I. Chester's gallery. See Friday.

Band performs Mars and Jupiter from Holst's *The Planets*, more. Free. 7:30pm. Bethany United Methodist, 1268 Sanchez. 554-0402.

Hungarian Photography

1920s and 1930s, Part II: exhibit includes works by Ferenc Csik, Imre Kinszki, more. Thru 11/1. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

My Cathedral

Site-specific installation by L.A. artist Alex Donis, thru 9/27. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Outlaws and Obsessions

Outsider films and videos by Kenneth Anger, Tom Ruhnitz, more. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/30, Noon-5pm. Free with admission (\$5). Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Particular Voices:

"Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers," photographs by Robert Giard, thru 10/26. Skylight Gallery, Main Library, Civic Center. 557-4595.

Wed 24

About Face

25 artists explore the human face, incl. Robert Arneson, Rebecca Bollinger, Imogen Cunningham, more. Thru 11/24. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 4000 Montgomery. 983-4000.

Art For Life

10th annual art auction benefits Face To Face Sonoma Co. AIDS Network, exhibit opens today, thru 9/26, free. (Auction 9/27, 3:30pm, \$39) Friedman Ctr., 4676 Mayette, Santa Rosa. (707) 544-1581.

Art In Community?

"Art Or Community?" September Critical panel, incl. Roberto Bedoya, John Kil-lackey, Pearl Ubungen. Free. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

A Certain Labor Day

Play written and performed by Carroll O'Connor: memories of a labor leader. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/26, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$33-45. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Electricity...

"Is Your Friend," exhibition of electromechanical tinkering and kinetic sculpture curated by Michael Brown, thru 9/27. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 9/7, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

High Society

ACT's production of Arthur Kopit's adaptation of Cole Porter musical. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/5, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

India:

"A Celebration!" 5 exhibitions in honor of 50th yr. of Indian independence. Thru 9/28. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Mark Davis

Gay stand-up comic in multi-character revue. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/28. \$10-12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Masters of Light:

"Dutch Painters from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thru 11/30. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

The Melting Pot

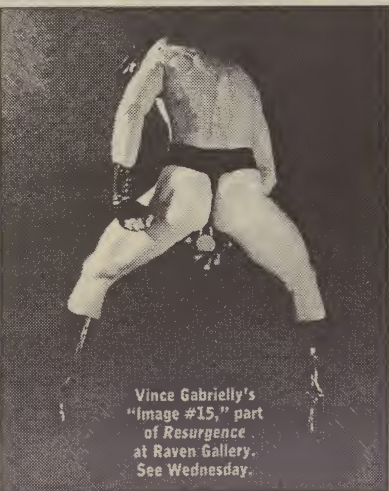
New paintings by Kico Govantes, thru 10/11. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Mexican Photography

Exhibition: five decades of works by Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Antonio Reynoso, and more. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/8. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Resurgence

Erotic art by Vince Gabrielly, Leon, Harry Tanner, more. Opens tonight, 6pm. Thru 9/27, then Fri. & Sat. thru 10/26. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.



Vince Gabrielly's "Image #15," part of *Resurgence* at Raven Gallery. See Wednesday.

Search and Destroy:

Punk Photography 1976-79 exhibition, thru 10/11. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

SF Games

Weekly board and card game group, free. 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3680.

Skin

Electric hellfire club, erotic dancers, fetish video. Opening night. \$3 before 11pm, \$4 after. Powerhouse, 1347 Folsom.

Umabatha

"The Zulu Macbeth," Welcome Msomi's epic South African theatrical experience. Thru 9/28, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$18-32. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Ibur

Art of Leon

15 Assn. portrait artist, male erotic leather-themed drawings, prints. Open studio, thru 9/27, 4623 18th St.

Cake and Lips

Ray McCrorey Jr.'s play about sex, drugs, and drag queen denial. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 9/28. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Crimes Against Nature

Revival of 1977 play: stories of gay survival. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/25; call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Fever Dreams

Group show of SF artists, incl. Jeffrey Bernstein, Mar-que Cornblatt, more. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/12. Belcher Studios Gallery, 69 Belcher. 255-8900.

Kielbasia:

"Queen of Poland 2- The Musical" by Matthew Worszlo. Last perf. tonight at 8:30pm. \$5. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Lambda Literary Reception

Lambda Literary Foundation reception for Lambda Literary Award finalists and winners. Donations. 6pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4499.

Mario Romero

New works on canvas by Mexico City artist, thru 10/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

These Are My Sisters

Martha Boesing's celebration of 70s feminism opens A Traveling Jewish Theatre's season. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 9/28. \$18. 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Transgendered Portrait

Deborah Hammond's series: portraits of drag kings, drag queens, and transsexuals; with Todd Hido's *House Hunting*, thru 10/4. SF Camera-work, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Whores and Other Feminists

Contributors to new anthology, incl. Annie Sprinkle, Carol Queen perform. \$15-30. 7:30pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 541-5618.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials



Prime Rib with baked potato and creamy horseradish 11.95

Grilled Salmon with lemon-dill butter sauce, fresh seasonal veggies and mashed potatoes 9.50

N.Y. Pepper Steak with black pepper-brandy-cream, served with onion rings & french fries ... 11.95

Chicken Stroganoff with marsala wine, mushrooms & sour cream served over fettuccini 8.95

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Breakfast/Lunch served from 8:00 AM
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SEXART 5 an east/west radical sex photo slam

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thru Oct. 12th

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PARTING GLANCES

Baker Beach Fri. Aug. 22
We spoke at the south end of beach as you were leaving. You're from Napa Valley, I'm from Berkeley. Let's talk some more. ☎ 7801.

Original Joe's Sun 8/17 8:30 PM
You: tall, handsome with mustache with man and woman. me: tall with woman, wearing yellow shirt. Our eyes met a few times. I wanted to say "hello," please call. ☎ 7802.

Hispanic Man At Bus Stop 8/19
About 5PM, 18th & Castro. You're shy, with mustache and turquoise shirt. I was across street drinking coffee. We waved good-bye as you left. Let's meet! ☎ 7803.

RRR Guerneville
Saw you around pool to shy to talk. Your name is Joe, from SF, Italian, reddish hair, grey eyes, great beard. Very hot & incredibly built, wolf Daddy! My mouth & butt are yours! Dan. ☎ 7804.

24 Hour Fitness 2nd/Folsom
8/20 you worked out with cap during the first half of your workout. I wore orange tank top. Walked with you on 2nd St., but too shy to talk. ☎ 7805.

Mr. S Leather, Sat AM, 8/23
You: GAM/GWM couple. GAM very buff, jeans, no shirt. GWM tall. Both totally hot. I told GWM I like your friend. Let me serve both of you! ☎ 7806.

Club Asia 8/22 Upper Platform
You're the handsome WM with goatee who came over and asked the time. My Timex Indiglo indicated 1:30. I should have said it about time we met. Well how about now? ☎ 7807.

Sat 8/23 B Buddies GBM 4 GWM
You: white dominant top, initial D, about 5'9". Me: blk bottom guy, 6 ft. Had to leave B4 I got your number. Love to take it again. ☎ 7808.

Watergarden Thursday Aug. 14
Room 14, handsome Japanese prince stroked WM, shy exec-type with grey suit who wants more. please call so I can do more for you. ☎ 7809.

David D. 8/23 6-10 AM Berkeley
So handsome. So hot. So what? That's commonplace—So genuine. So grounded. So rare. So foolish. I lost your number. So call Rac. So much unmet. So promising. I'm captivated. ☎ 7810.

John at Video Shop on Geary
a few months ago we met in a video booth. You: 31yr old. I gave you my phone #. I'm Ray, 27. Would like to see you regularly the way you want. ☎ 7903.

Bell Market Noe Valley 8/28
Early evening. you with friend in white car, me in white Jeep. We smiled and cruised each other in the store. Please call me. ☎ 7902.

8/28 MB450 Conv. Mkt/Franklin
We said hello from cars at Market and Duboce and followed each other onto Franklin at about 8:15 PM. Sorry I was in hurry. Let's connect. ☎ 7901.

12/28/96 Universe was Closing
Greg, your words keep spinning through my mind keeping me on some whimsical high. This is the guy in the white truck. Still looking for you but to no avail. ☎ 7905.

Joseph at the Cinch Bar
You: pool player, tall, brown hair, blue eyes and very sexy. We fooled around in bathroom at the Cinch, on 8/30. Me: cute Asian, short and nice. Call me Joe. ☎ 7906.

Korean Boy-Muscle System 8/30
I'm the buff GWM you met. you said I had an unusual accent. You gave me some workout tips. We flirted. I'm interested. Why not call and open the door? ☎ 7907.

Cafe Flore #40 9/7 AM
You: tall, c/n sh, blue shirt & big khaki shorts w/friend. Drove magenta VW. Me: 5'10", drk, c/n sh, blue shirt & pants. Eyes met, let's talk. ☎ 8003.

Latino at Pasqua Sat 9/6
We first exchanged glances at gay parade. You were safety monitor. I am stocky white male, blue eyes, balding. Want to meet you. Please call. ☎ 8004.

Sausalito Arts Festival 8/31
You had on a yellow shirt. I was wearing a white T-shirt and shorts. We exchanged glances but you were leaving so I didn't get a chance to say hi. ☎ 8006.

9/2 BART Mont to 16th 6:30PM
You: tall, goatee wearing navy Nike polo shirt. Me: Latino, blue shirt. Sat next to each other. Want to say hello as train broke down, but too shy. Let's meet. ☎ 8007.

Outside Harvest Market
Sat. Aug. 30. You: cute, short brown hair, indigo blue T-shirt, ate pasta. Me: tall, sunglasses, indigo blue T-shirt, shorts, sipping drink. Sat next to you on bench. Call. ☎ 8008.

Rob from San Mateo 8/24 Sat
Birthmark right shoulder. On a BMW. It was 4:30 after Mack. Gave you my number, please call Stephen in SF. ☎ 8009.

Tony Steamworks
You called. We were going to get together on Tuesday. I didn't get your #. Call on Tuesday. We'll have a good time. ☎ 8002.

Hunk @ Eric's Labor Day
As long as there is a smile on my face, you'll always have a place to sit...with no reservations & no waiting. ☎ 8014.

Wirtz Gallery Sat 3PM 8/23
You: cute, bl/bl, young, budding artist. me: interested in the photos—and you! Loved talking with you, but I failed to see what else could "develop." Coffee? Drinks? Pls. call! ☎ 7811.

Matt-Towns End Restaurant 9/1
You're beautiful. Is what I said to you. And I meant it! You teased me with your smile. I sent you a mimosa. We chatted briefly before you drove away. Drive back into my life—we can smile together! Andre. ☎ 7904.

Virgin Megastore Aug. 29, 4PM
You: guy with great legs and gray bicycle helmet with three green dots. Me: tall, bald, black guy. We made eye contact a few times. Wanna do more? ☎ 8010.

John at Cave, San Gregorio 9/1
I told you it was nice meeting you, as you were leaving beach that afternoon. Would like to do you again, only with no interruptions this time. Ken. ☎ 8005.

9/5 Ray at Power Exchange Main
We met in glory hole booth downstairs. You: bleached hair, tall. Me: baseball cap, young, passionate kisser. We laid together in Teepee upstairs until closing time. I liked you, leave message. ☎ 8001.

24 Div Bus Aug. 13 Wed 10:30PM
You sat w/black friend across from us. You: blue eyes, brown, blue pants. Me: blnd/blu, mustache, lev jacket. We connected as you left at 24th. Use instincts, call. ☎ 7865.

Tosca Standee Tues. Sept. 9
You: silver pendant on black spandex shirt, glasses, curly hair. We discovered the secret parapet during intermission: I want to know you. Please call me. ☎ 8012.

Lynn M with the Great Muscles
We met at RRR. You called; I was home but working. Just missed you, regretfully. Please call again and leave your number. Bob. ☎ 8011.

Whole Foods Sun 9/7
You: white shirt, blue jeans, hairy arms. Me: blond, corduroy shorts, blue T. Didn't know if your friend was a boyfriend. If not, let's talk. ☎ 8013.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+ Friend/Companion Wanted
Blond/bl, slender, 6'1", 185#, clean cut, uncult, GWM, 34, seeking GWM, HIV+, cte, weight proportionate guy under 35. ☎ 7919.

Motor Officer
New to gay scene. Has lots to learn about the gay scene. HIV-. Me: GL, tall boots a+. You: masculine, must be discreet. Into men not boys. Looking for a good time out on the town. Love to have fun with the right man who can get past the cop. I know that you are out there. ☎ 7812.

Cute Boy Toy Wanted
I've been celibate for 25 yrs but need a young man in my life now. Small frame with good mouth & hung for weekend play. Let's get it on! ☎ 7813.

Gentleman To Gentleman
Senior conservative respectable male is receptive to a younger married straight man. Prefer affluent, cultured man. ☎ 7814.

Biohazard Widower
Re beginning life after a health event. 6'2", 220, blonde, buzz-cut, big 'stach, 37yo mid-west farm boy. "Retired" 5 yrs. Seeking POZ, confident, slightly jaded, over 30 types with a passion in their life. ☎ 7815.

Handsome Hunky Loving Date
Quality GWM looking for passionate relationship, possible LTR. 6'2", 190#, 40's, 45C, 15A, very muscled Italian, grounded, HIV+, non-prosper, successful, sexually charged. Looking for comparable GWM, 30-40. Serious only. ☎ 7816.

GBM Looking For New Love
GBM, 40's, 5'11", 190#, Oakland. Enjoy reading, theater, dining, movies and cuddling. Positive! In good health. ISO GWM, 35-45 yrs. Be honest, have integrity and professional. Friendship/LTR. ☎ 7817.

Revered Society
African-American man desires a man of power and substance. His cultural intellect and intimate nature are innumerable qualities. Seeking a person who has a tremendous vision of his capabilities. ☎ 7818.

Mature Black Men
45, loves black men between 40-60 yrs. old. I can service you a long time with deep throat and bottom. Submissive guy awaits your desires. ☎ 7819.

Discreet Service Front & Rear
Husky GWM, 52, ISO AM or HM in shape. E. Bay under 35, no recip. nec. married OK, uncult OK. You know you need it. ☎ 7820.

Gay Sports Fans?
GWM, 40's, 5'8", 175, new to area but lifelong Giants and Niners fan seeks friendship with similar sports fans, 35-50. ☎ 7821.

GWM, 28, 5'10", 160
Healthy HIV+, Italian/German, seeks same. you: masculine pal like myself, under 35. As terrific as I am, next to you I'd be even better. ☎ 7911.

Asian Muscles Wanted
Englishman in Lake Tahoe WLM, beautiful Asian, 25-35, pref Japanese, Eurasian. For city visits Tahoe stays. I'm 6'3", 175, athletic, brn/blue. you: tall, good shape, muscles, a plus. Personality. ☎ 7822.

GAM ISO GWM Soulmate
New to town, seeking WM for date, friend, and lover btwn 27-40. Come and open my lonely soul. ☎ 7823.

Love and Beloved In Fall
Are you enchanted with autumn? Feel sentimental, lonely, desire for warmth/love? Let's be together, have coffee, apple desserts, walk into Fall. me: GAM, 30, elegant, attractive, ISO GWM, 25-45, well-educated. ☎ 7824.

Sex, Commitment, LTR
East Bay, HIV+, 37, GWM, 5'5", 155, spiritual sex pig, romantic, bearded/ You GWM, ISO sex, commitment, LTR. Mutual FF, WS, toys and cuddling too. ☎ 7825.

Looking For A Special Person
GWM, 45, 5'10", 170#, blk hr/hazel eyes, attractive, friendly, romantic in search of white or Latin male (34-44 yrs old) HIV-, masculine, intelligent, sense of humor, tall (5'10" to 6'1") E. Bay, facial hair a plus. ☎ 7826.

Accountant By Day Love Slave
By night. 55, GWM, HIV+, healthy top is seeking. You'll be wined, dined and romanced with eclectic mix of interest by 5'8", 165, S/P, stocky built guy. Paled skinned a plus as is blondes, redheads. ☎ 7827.

CHP Motor Officer
This ad appeared before. Those who responded were boys not men. I seek someone masculine and who can satisfy my needs. Me: HIV-. You like good food. ☎ 7828.

Looking For A Friend
GBM, 36, seeks GWM, 30-36, for friendship or relationship. Must have his act together. NS/ND. I'm not just looking for sex. ☎ 7829.

GWM Bear-Type Nudist In SF Skis
Other GW/L/H/M nudist. I'm 38yo, 6'3", 220, husky, mod hairy, drk hair, bl eyes. Love movies, games, music, cuddle/touch/kiss, play, talk, coffee in bed Sunday mornings. You: 30-45, hlwt prop, relaxed fun. Rdhds/UC/slim A+. ☎ 7830.

Private Humiliation
Demanding male, 43, seeks clean-cut "son" to publicly praise when well behaved and privately humiliate (in various ways) when disobedient. Military, Irish, or Catholic background preferred. ☎ 7831.

Black Man 41, HIV-, 6'1", 170#
Beard, short dreadlocks sks friends. I'm a music teacher, musician, masseur and gardener. I'm vegetarian into simple living & spiritual practices. I live in the foothills of Mendocino county. I visit the Bay area occasionally. Not looking for sex buddy. ND/NS/NA. ☎ 7832.

Seeking Tall Husky Men
Age unimportant. Prefer white or Latino. Big feet a plus. Me: GAM, 23, 5'7", 155#, attractive and work-out. Will answer all replies. ☎ 7833.

Sizzle an Tenderess
GWM wants bl/GWM lover. I'm 6', husky, frisky, witty, generous. you're romantic, responsible, thin, HIV-, NS. ☎ 7834.

Celebrate the Body Erotic
Mod hairy, bearded, long haired Body Electric grad, 42, 5'10", 170#, seeks loving community of Bay Area ecstasies, healers, intimates, teachers, sacred brothers & other kindred spirits for ongoing massage exchange. ☎ 7835.

Young GWM For Built GBM/GLM
I'm 24, 5'11", 155, gd/kg, prof w/dge, bl/bl. You: 25-39, hung, muscular, versatile, no STD, upbeat, sweet talk w/style, devotion, good life. Possible LTR. ☎ 7908.

HIV+ Valley Boy Wants City Man
Attractive, healthy, GWM mid 30's, blonde, blue, goatee, bottom seeks LTR with masculine top man. Live in Sacramento. ☎ 7909.

Would You Mine If I'm Asian
Hawaiian Filipino, 30's, 5'9", 138, HIV+ bottom seeking a masc, top-man, in shape, or stocky built 4 romance to nasty times, friendship, poss relationship w/ varied interests. Any race, 25-50. A Puerto, Mid Eastern, Latinos & Irish, uncult. ☎ 7910.

Go with the Flow "Energy"
6', 160#, ice blue eyes, seeking an ethnic, black or the rare Caucasian who understands energy interchange between men. Intelligent, compassionate, adventurous, witty, caring, sensitive, honest, real, handsome, inquisitive. ☎ 7914.

Boy Wants to Grow Nice Abs
And get lean & trim on your program, sir. Set goals, supervise workouts. Let me lick your nuts & ass if deserved. Spank my bare ass hard when needed. Boy is 46, 5'9", 155, glasses, shaved, in-shape (hiking/yoga), nice natural body. ☎ 7915.

Smoldering Lust
Handsome, passionate, 35, 6'2", 180, stache/tee, HIV-, seeks reg sex buddy. You? guy next door, white, small waist, inexperienced but bottom curious. Discover the ecstasy. ☎ 7916.

Expert Cock sucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 7917.

Nordic Educated Cultured PGWM
Gentleman farmer, semi-retired, solar scientist, environmentalist, naturalist, seeks companion to share the lively arts, world travel, conversation and possibly life on a beautiful farm. ☎ 7918.

Athletic Guy
Masculine, professional, witty, Asian, 49, 5'9", 150, physically active and fit, seeks clean-shaven, lean or muscular WM into workouts, hiking, camping, sports, dancing, ethnic food, travel and fun times. ☎ 7960.

Buddy Wanted
Healthy HIV+, GWM, professional, 5'3", 130 lbs, 50 yrs young, goate, great body & soul—seeks Hisp, Asian or Black buddy, 30-40, under 5'8", for hot friendship and sex. ☎ 8015.

Cultured Redneck
5'10", 160, GWM, buzz cut & beard, 33yo, HIV-, can't say by who's right, but I'm a real, sarcastic view of life. Looking for over 30 w/a life. ☎ 8016.

Attractive Latino
Good-looking Latino, 32yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee. Like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 8017.

A Gentleman Master's Delight
Handsome, intelligent, footboy, 27, seeks the guidance and authority of naturally dominant man who could appreciate a sexy, sensual submissive at his feet. Father/son fantasies, big feet, tall—all pluses. ☎ 8018.

ISO Romance
Me: GM, Eurasian, 6'1", brn/brn, 255# (and losing), 29yo, intelligent, exotic, attractive, spiritual, romantic, funny, loving. You: GWM, 25-35, similar qualities, sincere, thin, brainy types are a plus. ☎ 8019.

Skink Bl HIV+ E Bay LM/BM Top
HIV+ white male, 35, blonde, brown, 6 foot, 185, healthy, employed, seeks HIV+ masculine men of color for friendship and fun times in the Concord area. Catperson or Virgo gets committed LTR. ☎ 8020.

Leather/Diaper Boy ISO Daddy
Desire relocation for equalitarian relationship with caring, dominate, top. I'm 37, 5'8", 155#, 29yo, HIV-, eclectic social/sexual interests to include many diapers. Serious, hlwt proportional, safe, sane, Daddies only. ☎ 8021.

GWM 37 Sks Dates Friends & LTR
6'2", bl/gm, gd looking & 160#. Educated & employed. Value honesty, integrity, spiritual growth. Non/drink/drug/smoke. HIV+. Reader. Seeking tall HIV- Mediterranean types, mid-30's. Love the outdoors & being naked. (Burning man was great this year.) ☎ 8022.

Masculine Muscular White Guy
Seeks similar, fun times, sex, maybe more. 5'11", 180 lbs, HIV+, w/no measurable sign of virus. You: muscles, witty, good attitude. Like Hanks & Gibson. I'm handsome and 41. ☎ 8023.

GWM 23 Professional, ISO Dating
GWM, 42 yo, 5'8", 155#, light brown hair, hazel-green eyes, on the serious side of life. Seeking AM, under 30, N/S/D, no games, not into the "scene", whose flexible, unpretentious. ☎ 8024.

Man-Boy Seeks Daddy LTR
GWM, 6', 175, submissive, well built, hairy, buzzed, beard, healthy HIV+. Boy likes all pleasure wants to explore BD, FF, various scenes. Big, hairy, hung, all +s. Call me sir. ☎ 7913.

Winning Top Sks LTR Bottom
GWM, 42 yo, 5'8", 145#, long-time body-builder but don't acquire bulk. Seeking very muscular or naturally well-built boy to control, spank, massage, bind and bond with. ☎ 8025.

Dominant Italian
In-shape, 52, 5'8", 145#, long-time body-builder but don't acquire bulk. Seeking very muscular or naturally well-built boy to control, spank, massage, bind and bond with. ☎ 8025.

Looking for Someone Special
Attractive GWM, HIV+, 36yrs old, 5'9 1/2", 155#, brn hair, blue eyes, goatee, looking for Latino, Caribbean between 25 to 45 yr for friendship or more. Like hiking, swimming, exercise. I'm versatile and caring. I enjoy music & making amore. S 8026.

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

SEEKING ADVENTURE

I Need A Man...

Who is a total bottom, maybe uncultured and have a hot hairy ass for pounding. This 8'2" hot, thick, inches is hard and waiting. HIV+ OK! 7836.

Erotic Sensuous BM

Handsome professional BM, 9'4" uncultured, 6', 195#, masculine, squeaky clean, honest, HIV-, seeks similar big beefy athletic built, round bubble butt or well hung, a plus. BL, men of color, race open. 7857.

Hungry Gum Job Wnted Evenings 45, WM, 5'10", 165#, med bld, br/bw, musta, 7x5 1/2 cut cock ringed meat w/proposed sized balls seeking hungry milker on regular basis. Serious only. 7838.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt

45, WM, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to eat and fuck. 7839.

Bulging Biceps

Wanted: boys or men, 21-45 yrs old, thin to muscular, with defined biceps, who enjoy flexing, servicing dick, and getting fucked. I'm 6'1", 185#, 37 yrs, muscular, gym toned, top oriented. 7840.

Nipples

Looking for eccentric men who need to be watched while they JO and work their nipples. Let's do it together. Tit addicts only—yeah! 7841.

Pump It!

Good-looking, tall, 30's, bottom seeks hung studs to fill my throat and butt. I want to be pumped, plowed, plundered and plugged with big meat. Couples welcome. EEO/AA. 7842.

Butt Fuck Me and Unload

Husky, horny, handsome, hot Italian pig fuckee looking for stud pig fuckers. 44, 6', 195#, goatee, beefy butt and always greased up. Castro late night sex. 7843.

East Bay Daddy

Seeks submissive boy, 18-35, for randy times and... 7844.

Clean-cut Bottom Wanted

Into leather, underwear, toys, strip search, shaving, butt massage, spanking and save plowing. Me: 42, 5'10", 158#, c/n shvn. You: shorter, c/n shvn, a little plus. Fat, fem is not. 7845.

Gym Bottom Into Average Joe?

WM, 40's, HIV-, average build, dominant verbal imaginative seeks very muscular/bodybuilder/exhibitionist bottom HIV- into taking orders showing off giving head taking dildos and more at your place. 7846.

Seeking Big Dicked JO Buddies

Let's put our big dicks together and jack off, nipple play too. Sexy bicyclist, hairy chest, big fat dick. No drugs or alcohol. 7847.

Oral Muscle Bottom Wanted

Smooth skinned muscle bottom with bubble butt wanted by hot hung HIV-, 6'1", 185#, Blacks, Asians OK. Masculine only. 7848.

GBM+ ISO GWM+ Top

Healthy HIV+ GBM ISO GWM top to service. 185, 6 ft, smooth. Tell me how you want me to take it. 7849.

Sunrise Services

Hot bottom seeks hung studs for early morning action. I'm 36, 6'3", 195#, b/bl, tight hungry bubble butt and bottomless throat. UB: hot, horny, hung and ready for action. 7850.

Chubby-Muscular Seeks Partner

Me: 30, masculine, blonde, blue, 5'10", 225#, HIV-, safe, top or bottom for: bondage, humiliation, moderate S/M and fantasy. You: turned-on by a kinky, attractive, heavy guy. 7851.

Weekends & Afternoons

N. Bay cocksucker wants clean cut big cocks to deep throat me. Clean, HIV-, early 50's, hot mouth, plus little tight hairy ass. Available for exploring & fucking. You be in charge. I'm eager to please!! Age, race, looks, unimportant. 7852.

Very Petite

Seeks tops 7' or better. My interest include sucking, massage and probe my little bottom, pounding my ass. Deep throat your big 8" cock. Having my balls worked hard. I'm GWM, HIV-, 50's, submissive, adventurous. 7853.

The Thicker the Better

Well built, lighter man or color, 8 1/2x6 dick, beard, 34, HIV-, ISO big beefy, hung 8+, HIV-, for hot, sweaty JO sessions. Big balls, uncult, smoker a plus. 7854.

Call Me White Boy!

Stocky GWM, 52, ISO GBM in shape, under 35 who likes to be rimmed and sucked in E. Bay. No perfumes, discreet, race talk OK. 7855.

Harry Crack

Meet Peter hard. 35/6'2"/180, handsome. 78029.

Mature Man Seeks Younger

For on going fun times. Fantasies? Why not! I'm 73, 5'8", 165, you are 18-40, healthy, sexual, and open minded like I am. 7856.

Looking for Classy—Fuck Buddies

I'm a college graduated, black, out, fun and chic, looking for guys—any color, who are sophisticated and interesting. For platonic or sex. Must be classy. 7866.

Lthr Dad & Boy ISO 3 & 4 Ways

Looking for other guys & couples into CBT, sucking, fisting, BD, rimming, dildos. Must be trim, hairy is a plus. No fems. Bi & straight curious welcome. 7868.

A Dick is a Dick is a Dick...

Till I'm sucked real good and shoots its biggest possible load for the good sucker. For blow job well done. Let me show ya what I mean! 7920.

Hot Cocksmacking Agenda

1. Your hard cock. 2. Any size OK. 3. Sucked like no tomorrow. 4. You unload. 5. Clients repeat. 7. Discover why. 8. You deserve unloading these bigger loads. 7921.

Hot Sexy Erotic Boy

Very cute, very smooth body, young, experienced, 21yo, blond, clean, safe, gay sex wanted from young gay couples. Jocks a plus. N/S/D. 7922.

Service My Hairy Crotch

Sexy, little, hairy bear with pure top energy wants to hook up with hungry oral expert for long, hot, verbal sessions. 7923.

Love Sucks

...and so do I. If you're honest, masculine, HIV-, h/wt proportionate with a big, fat dick, I'm a nice guy, attractive, albeit short, 50, and enjoy mutual cocksucking. 7924.

Cocksucker WM 57 HIV- ISO You

You play with my nipples. I jack-off sucking your cock and balls, nice and slow. Slim built, HIV-, 40-60, any race. Safe sex a must. 7925.

Raw Bareback Bottom

This hot, handsome, muscular, butch, HIV+ GBM, 34 yrs, 175#, 5'10", with a smooth, hungry, bubble butt that likes it raw by in shape, masculine, GWM/GLM, versatile tops, 30-55 yrs old. 7926.

Boy Needs Hung Dad Daytime

In LTR, need hung Dad for daytime fun. I'm 6', 31 yrs, 185, mod-hairy, trim beard, brn/bm, good looking and hung, very oral—Be attractive and affectionate. 7927.

Fill My Hungry Manhole

Hot, GWM, 39, 5'11", bottom, w/light ass, big dick, shaved head, tattoos. Needs to service hot, nasty, well hung man. I love big dicks. Fill me up sir! 7928.

Hump My Butt with Big Dick

Muscular tight hard slender guy, 5'8", 170, 45, loves a quickie, day or night. You be in decent shape, weight proportionate, 30 to 50, hung! Oakland. Describe yourself. 7929.

This Fucker's a Bottoms Dream!

Hard body—enthusiastic-long lasting. Intuitive, 44, 5'9", 165, average dick gives way above average performance. I love what I do. Call me. I'll come over. 7930.

Dig Being Nude?

This 6'4", lanky, smooth, hung nudist, 187, 40, seeks sensual buddy for hikes and beaches. Love nature, sun, cocks, and kissing. New new new to SF. 7931.

In Search of Dog-Slave

For ownership, collaring, obedience training. Bondage, SM, etc. Prefer young, small, slim or muscular, short hair breed. 7932.

A1 Oral Service Delivered

SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. 7933.

Seeking Ideal Italian Lover

If you look like Tony Danza, Dan Cortese or Antonio Sabato Jr., then you're exactly what I'm looking for. 7934.

Love Cock?? I Do

I haven't met one I don't like. Let's get together & introduce our dicks to each other for fondling, licking & JO. Discreet play wkday afternoons. 40's, 6', 168, stache, clean pleasant appearance. 7935.

Hot Handsome Marin GWM 35

Br/gr, masculine, hairy, HIV-, 5'8", 160#, seeks good looking fuck buddy/friend under 40. Versatile, Hispanic, Italian, uncult a plus. Today? 7936.

Suck Me off nr Castro

Black guy always horny, 31, 5'11", 190, stocky, well-hung, needs expert cocksucker for morn, eves, & nights, your place, older guy preferred. Regular basis OK. 7937.

Hairy Rider ISO Sane

Stocky, muscled, bearded, very hairy, healthy POZ, mostly top, swappable if you are POZ, stocky, muscled, hairy, mostly bottom, into working out, leather, SOMA, cuffs, ropes, and rough riding. 7938.

Hungry Butt

East Bay hairy bear, 35, b/bl, gives hot ass to younger guys. Also versatile. Safe & clean. 7939.

I Wanna Suck Your Butt

Castro late night horny Italian stud wants to bury my tongue up your hot clean butt. Love to eat ass for hours. Kick back and let me eat you! 7940.

Asian Like Uncult Latino

Asian would like to meet horse hung Latino. Uncult for forensin worship and oral sex and foreplay. 7941.

Linebacker Top Wanted

By tall, dark, masculine & handsome. I be big guy over 6'1", 200#, w/big tool, HIV- that likes excellent service & likes to sweat. Kick back or call the shots. 7942.

Blond Top Hung 8 and Thick!!!

I am a handsome, in shape, hairy chested, boyish top with a goatee. You are a bottom who wants slow, intense, sex play. Give a call and let's get it in!! 7943.

The Tongue wants your Hot Butt

Rub across my bushy mustache. Me: 6', 165, br/bl, 37yo, expert mouth. You: hot, trim & ready for a wild ride. 7944.

Bottom Kink

Hot sloppy white FF butthole ready for action seeking hot toman/versatile to explore/play together. 7945.

I Want It Everyday

Attractive dominant Italian top seeks young, masculine boy to fuck on a regular basis. You should be lean, defined, submissive and eager. 7946.

Hot Sausage in Orig. Skin??

U/C cocks excite me! Allow me to savor the flavor, uncover your cock-head & then cover it, put a tongue or finger inside, pull & chew on the overhang. 40's, trim, discreet has big flared ridge cut cock head for you. Wkday afternoons. 8027.

ISO Preppie-Looking Men

I'm looking for a dominant preppie/yuppie-looking type WM or AM who enjoys getting slow & sensual oral service all over by a 38 yo GLM. 8028.

Hung, Uncut?

Sexy, horny GWM, 35, 5'9", 160, b/bl seeks masculine, hung, uncult men to service. 8032.

Active Buddies Wanted

Wanted by healthy, happy Russian Italian cock sucking bottom for bike rides, walking tours, movies, beach, maybe sex. 8039.

All Day Cock Sucker

GBM, early 40's, who interested in getting optional. Me: 46, 160, 5'11", masc. att. You: in shape, to 45, clean, hot, HIV-. No fems. 7857.

Polk Area Pleasure

Masculine, healthy POZ, GWM, 6', 185#, 44, balding/buzz, gym. ISO h/wt proportionate, NS, local buddies for mutual expert oral. POZ a plus. Friendship and LTR poss. 8034.

Wanted: Average Sized Dicks

I'm tired of big dicks! I want to get fucked by a guy with an average-sized cock. Italian, 44, goatee, hot ass, great cocksucker, 6', 190#, horny. 8035.

White Boys Cock-to-Cock

Proud Black Domina, aged 50, professional & highly sexed, wants two white boys naked, cocks taped together, and more. Contact "Brownsugar." Be professional, respectable. 8036.

Anal Pleasures

Let me nibble on that asshole w/rim seat. Me: Hsp, hot, very attr., 40, 5'11", 165#. You: hot, in shape, young to 40 w/puckering hole and lips. 8037.

Asian Man Wants White Guy

Asian, 5'8", 149#, handsome, body builder, 28yr. Looking for GM, 20-42, to have fun, movie, travel, no smoking. Prefer your place. HIV. 8038.

Kiss Ass Cocksucker Slave E. Bay

Seeks master with mean streak to punish, degrade, humiliate, embarrass & train me. GWM, 48, good shape, seeks guy next door to worship, serve & amuse. No CBT/TT. 8040.

Straight Seeks Shave & Massage

Masculine WM, 56, seeks mature WM to knead my lower back & buttocks, trim pubic hair, shave cock & balls and provide sensual prolonged climax producing CLB hand massage. 8030.

BD FF Dad

48, in shape, seeks adventurous sons for bondage, FF, & after cuddling. Dad, 6', 185, shaved head. 8041.

Folsom Street Fair

I'm taking you there on a collar and leash. You'll be wearing a leather strap face cage, mouth gauge, tit clamps and chaps with your butt bare and plugged. Call. 8042.

SF/Penisula Suck Buddies Days

Or early evenings. Dark, hairy, Latin/Med look, tight butt, 5'11", 170, passionate kissing, rimming, tit-play. Discreet/no strings—your place preferred or outdoors. Singles/couples, 20-45. 8031.

Slender Bottom with Nice Butt

Boysish WM, 30, 5'9", 150, nice body & small shapely butt seeks tall WM top, under 45, for cock worship & submissive butt play. Clean only, no pain/STD's. 8043.

Hot Hung Top 8 & Thick

Hairy chest, goatee & handsome seeks bottom guys with shaved heads tattoos and a warm ass for intense sex play. Be sincere and willing. S 8044.

Wntd Deep Throated Cock Sucker

Older oral expert pref. by mature older GBM, HIV-, hung big, clean, uncult, med build, intelligent/civilized. Enjoy getting massage foreplay. Looks unimportant. Be sincere & available. Live#/times to return call (No pagers/voice mailboxes pls). 8045.

FETISHES

Panty hose and Tights

Want to hook up for some pantyhose fun with other men. Not drag. 7953.

Butthole Action

Get your hole eaten on rim seat. Dildo play optional. Me: 46, 160, 5'11", masc. att. You: in shape, to 45, clean, hot, HIV-. No fems. 7857.

Glory Hole Gratification

Simple as an ATM. Insert cock in slot and receive service. Lobby open for service by appointment. Mission area, evenings & weekends. 7858.

Rim-A-Thon

Focused, devoted asshole worshippers sought to suck, eat hot hole on a rim chair. Yellow, liquid refreshment available, if desired. Hungry, thirsty, & serious pigs only. Looks, age unimportant. 7859.

'Like to Eat Your Own Load?

I sniff my jockstrap while I stroke my big cock. When it's time to unload I throw my legs back and shoot my jism. You too? 7860.

Let Me Lend a Helping Hand(s)

I lay back and enjoy a slow sensual erotic hand job that finishes with a shuddering, heart pounding climax. GWM, 30, 5'10", 170, c/n shvn. Cute, bald, glasses, great hands. You: hung! 7861.

Foot Guys

Versatile bottom seeks men for foot play. Me: 40, Cau, med build, works out. You: Cau, Hispanic, 21-50. 7864.

I Love to Piss on Men

I'm a friendly black SF gay man into meeting attractive white or olive skinned men to piss on etc... I only do you. Sincere only! 7867

Experienced Leather Bottom

Seeks experienced Master for bondage and S&M. 40, 5'11", 190, masculine, good build/looks. Discretion required and reciprocated. Safe sex oriented. No druggies/drunks. 7947.

Daytime Asshole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro! 7948.

Chubby Men

I'm a GLM, 38, 6', 150#, drk hr and I enjoy giving slow sensual oral pleasure to very chubby men, hairy, facial hair A+. No drugs. 7949.

Hole Needs Filling

GWM, 5'11", 175#, 40yo, amputee. ISO tops. Smoke, drink, some party favors, singles and groups. Age and looks unimportant. All that matters is attitude. Bareback possible. 7950.

Slice of Bacon Tastes Great

On T-bone steak! Crispy GWM seeks beefy GWM for man-meet action, leather-tongue affection, & motorbike grease adventures. AM 36, 5'9", 130#, w/slim build. ISO bigger, badder, buddy. 7951.

Unusual Cock/Nut Modifications?

Interested in guys with radically altered genitals, split heads, heavy de-structive piercing, etc. Let's talk. Sex not necessary but OK. Want to examine and document what you've done. Serious only. 7952.

Your Feet

You feet in thongs or sandals make me hard, make you my god. Let me worship your masterful feet. I'm masculine, fit and attractive, looking for same. 7954.

Chest Play

Fit, tanned, hairy, outdoors man in SF with robust, shaved nipples and an eager mouth & hands is looking for another in shape buddy who enjoys hours of being playful & nipple pleasures. 7955.

Put me Over your Knee

Me: 21 years old, very hot, you: under 40, experienced and hot only. I'm a smart ass who needs to learn a lesson. Smack my ass until I squeal. 7958.

Eat My Ass

Hot 30 year old, verbal rim top based in SF needs his beautiful ass sucked by a pro. 8051.

Hot Mouth wants Young Cock

Hot mouth wants to service young cock on a regular basis. If your 18 to 25, want head, you will be very satisfied, and want it again. Bigger the better. 8046.

Big Butt Lips & Holes Served

My tongue will lick, suck and probe your ass. I prefer slim and hairy guys with protruding butt lips and big loose hole. I'm good looking, 48, 6'1", 185# & pleasant. 8047.

Clean Cut Ex Marine Loves Bikers

Me: 6'2", 200#, br/hazel, ex-college football, retired Marine. Look for clean cut guy for date to Starship Troopers. You: in motorcycle jacket. 8048.

Sweat Raunch Piss Wanted

By hot-mouthed Castro man with rimseat. Full oral service. Uncuts A+. 8049.

It's Still 1979 to Me

I still need an expert to deep throat my black Oakland telephone pole in 15 minutes, then leave. Please, no novices, busy phones, beads or goatees, indirect phone #'s. 8050.

Wanted: Guys into Nylon Socks

GWM, 32, hot, 6'2", b/bl/b, HIV-, seeks hot guys, 25-35, into nylon socks. Careless, smell, masculine, pose in! Like big feet, hung, in shape, tops, sex too? Call! 8052.

Hot Guy w/Tow Ring Sks Barefoot

Buddy, Masculine, tan, good-looking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing

Jalila Bell and Katie Moremen in *America Songbook*.

Stephen Pelton

◀ Arts cover

ragtime in the film *Crumb*, Pelton and Maggio, who worked together on *Boat Song* (Barcarole, 1994), *Waltzes for the Dayroom* (1995), and *Death of a Moth* (1996), embarked on another long-distance collaboration, this time, Pelton says, with more of a storytelling bent than his previous work. He gathered imagery from Civil War photos and tintypes; newsreels, 78s, and photographs on the Library of Congress website "American Memory"; books like *The Red Badge of Courage* and *Terrible Homest: Mongrel Manhattan in the Twenties*; and bits of folk dance and music. He also watched a lot of MGM musicals. "I pulled out little hooks," he says, "to give the feeling that you've been there before."

America Songbook is split into three acts, beginning with "Prologue: Ghosts" and "The Show," a

raucous affair set in a nightclub. Pelton combines broad variations on vaudeville, soft-shoe shuffle, buck and wing, cakewalk, and the Charleston with postmodern expansiveness: flat-footed chassés, barrel turns, deep pliés, swiveling hips. To create an original ragtime score, which ends with a striptease to the Scott Joplin original "A Real Slow Drag," Maggio says he played with ragtime, putting his variations before Joplin's theme. He pulled the music apart and put it back together, "but put it together wrong, so that all the rough edges are showing." The Rova Saxophone Quartet accompanies the second act, "Workaday Blues," which begins with a sleepy, rolling contact improv-style duet between the central couple and evolves into a driving ensemble piece set in the urban '20s.

Pelton backtracks to the Civil War in the third act, "The Unknown Road Still Marching," accompanied by a quartet and a

singer who tells the story of a dying soldier with Whitman's poem "A March in the Ranks Hard Pressed." The flying dives and lifts are broken up by meditative moments, like the dancer who traces a line around a fallen comrade with a heel, or the pair of weary soldiers who struggle to keep moving. *America Songbook* is shaped by the emotional and racial issues that resonate in the music, the "brutal and decadent truth of the blues," as Pelton puts it, but also about the universal, ages-old will to live. "The male couple fighting to survive [in the last section] — blink and it's an AIDS piece," he says. "I hope it clicks in a particular way with gay people. I want it to." ▼

America Songbook is up through September 21 (8 p.m.) at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. Call 621-7797 for tickets (\$12.50-18.50).

In & Out

◀ page 45

everywhere else makes his disco dancing more pathetic than liberating.

The all-important kiss is also troubling. This was a much-argued-over event behind the scenes, with the pro-kiss forces winning by dint of enthusiastic preview audiences. Still, its impact is lessened by the fact that it takes place in an empty field, with no one watching. One could argue that this makes dramatic sense, because Howard is coming to terms with something essentially personal in nature, but wouldn't the scene be more authentically liberating if it took place in a crowd? The ethos of the film immediately dismisses that possibility, however, as all the "nice" people of Greenleaf, not to mention Howard's pals and relatives, would react with the same sense of horror as audiences in theatres watching this movie.

Rudnick and Rudin would no doubt argue that such complaints miss the point of the movie. During interviews, both mentioned classic screwball comedy as the inspiration for *In & Out*, as if to exonerate the film from the serious issues it raises. Yet amidst all the zingy one-liners and comical hysterics, the film strives for a social critique and should be judged as both farce and social problem drama.

While some of Rudnick's sharp dialogue lingers — the supermodel who plaintively wails to Cameron Drake, "I have to shower and vomit" comes to mind — the film's too-tidy resolution is as fantasy-based as the town itself.

Kline's Brackett is ultimately a cipher whose pain we never really understand behind his mask-like visage, and we have to feel that pain if the film is asking us to accept him as a man who has been in massive denial all his life. Selleck has a few memorable moments in which he describes the coming-out process with surprising conviction (make of that what you will), and Joan Cusack emerges as the one

human being who is more than an exponent of Rudnick's admittedly funny lines. Even without a top-rank star, *In & Out* will probably succeed (perhaps not on the scale of *The Birdcage*), but straight audiences will find more to love here than gay ones. ▼

In & Out opens in general release Friday, September 19.

History Matters

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questions which, it seems, are posed anew to each generation of Jews. Simple existence, the acceptance of one's being as normal and secure and unchallengeable, has not been possible for Jews. We have had to live consciously, with awareness and by making choices." I would suggest that any oppressed group, including gays and lesbians, can see themselves in that observation.

Lerner has a serious political

agenda in her writing, which she explicates with care and conscience. Her goal is nothing less than to change the world for the better. "The feminist revolution," she asserts, "will not be an overthrow, it will be a transformation." She reminds us that "we need to keep a basic principle in mind: It is not 'difference' that is the problem. It is dominance justified by appeals to constructed differences that is the problem." Why *History Matters* will make you feel smart, hopeful, and interested in the world around you. Don't miss it. ▼

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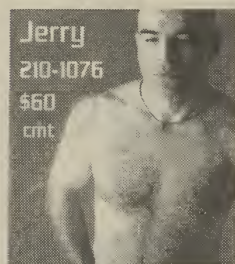
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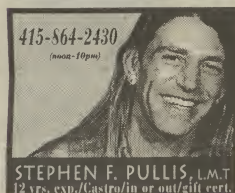
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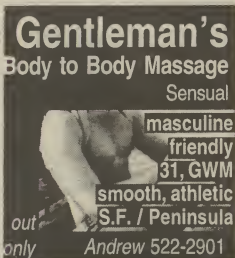
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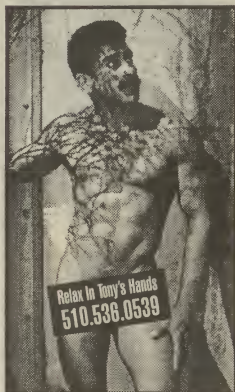
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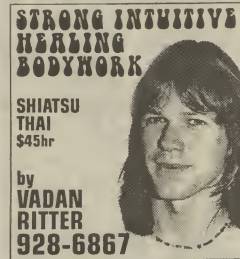
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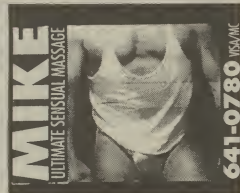
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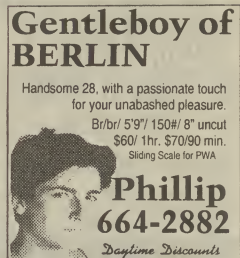
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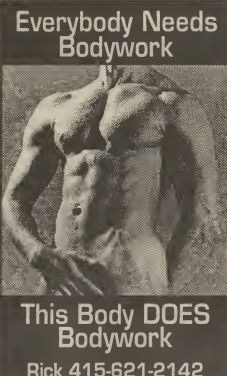
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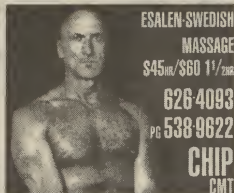
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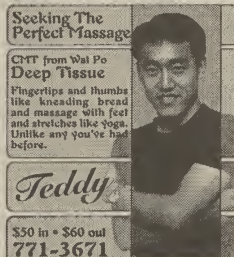


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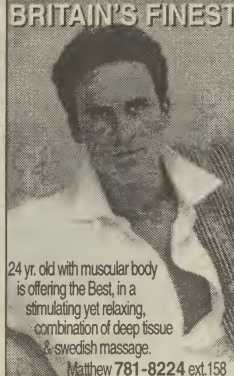
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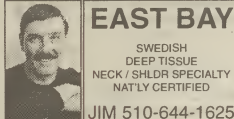
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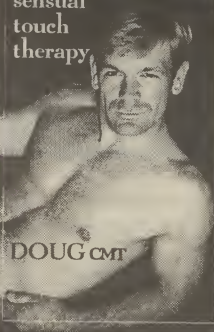
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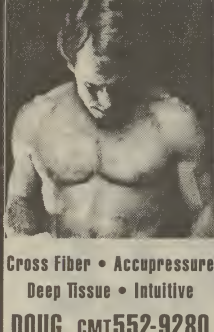
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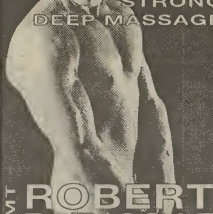
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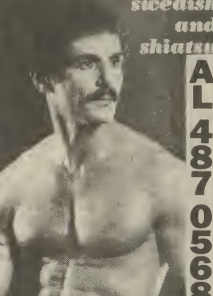
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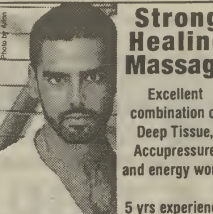
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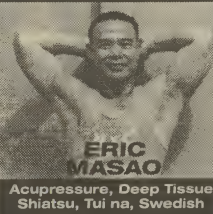
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Just loves to play. I can even bring
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Chris @ 270-5175 Pager or voice

19yo slim, smooth, boyish body

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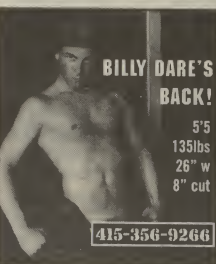
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I also kick back for service.
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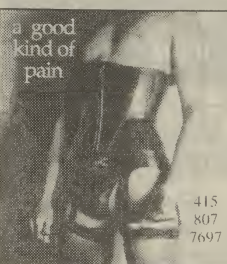
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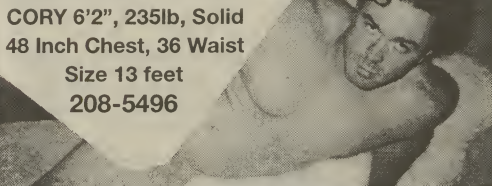
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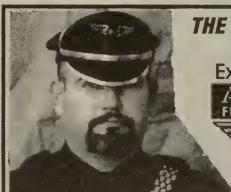
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Attractive, Attentive, Affectionate. 60/In
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Muscular, 190#, 9" cut 764-6280

CUTE AS FK**

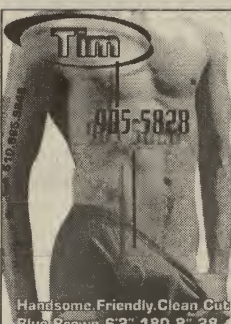
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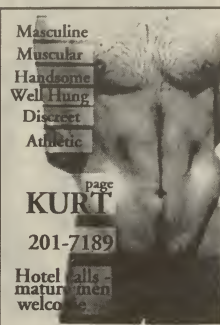
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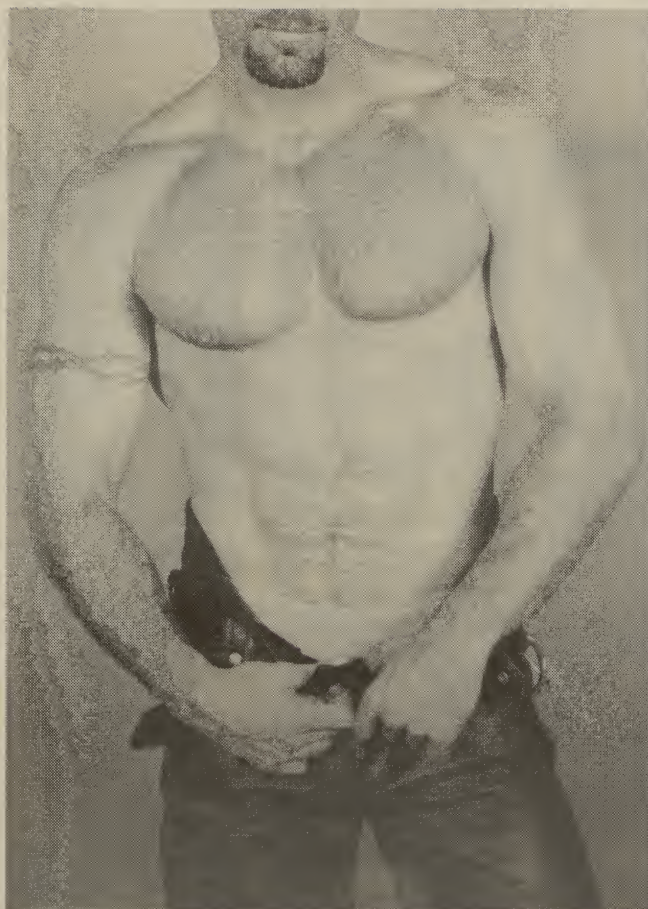
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